

BEST FOR STUDENTS

Daily up-to-date listings:

STARTING TODAY

THE TIMES

16 PAGE

BEST FOR BOOKS

Admiral Sir Jock Slater
on The Safeguard of the Sea
PLUS: Malcolm Bradbury
on Saul Bellow
PAGES 34, 35

BEST FOR JOBS

WANTED EXECUTIVE
Consultant 85K
Manager 50K
Analyst 35K
Graduate 25K
16 PAGES OF APPOINTMENTS

Harder work in 'baccalaureat' plan

A-level pupils will have to sit extra exams

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SIXTH FORMERS are to be made to work harder and to spend more hours in the classroom under a new "baccalaureat" system that could be as demanding as studying for five A levels.

The move, aimed at making sure that scientists can write good English and linguists can use computers, comes in spite of today's 16th successive improvement in A-level grades — an advance viewed with suspicion by employers' groups, which fear standards are being watered down.

Ministers yesterday defended the continued improvement in the A-level pass rate and congratulated the successful candidates, but told a private summit of teachers' leaders that they were still concerned that British students were not working as hard as their peers overseas and that the current pattern of three A levels left too many 18-year-olds too specialised when they left school.

In France, for example, sixth formers attend 38 hours of lessons a week, compared with 18 in Britain. In Singapore, most sixth formers take five A levels.

Now the Government has decided that all 16 to 19-year-olds should have at least six hours more tuition a week to cover literacy, numeracy and information technology, on which all pupils will be assessed. If these "key skills" do not form part of their A level or vocational qualification, the student will have to take extra examinations to cover them.

Changes will be introduced

ONLINE HELP

The Times has set up an interactive online service to help would-be students seeking degree course vacancies after today's declaration of A-level results. It provides searches by course code, category or name as well as by university. Information includes every university's web address. Access The Times Clearing Service on <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/clearing>

from 1999 with the amount of work required of sixth formers increasing year by year until four or five subjects are the norm. Ministers accept that students cannot be forced to take more examinations, but hope that universities will make the three "key skills" part of their basic admission requirements.

The meeting at the Department of Education and Employment came as the annual argument resumed over A-level standards. Today's results will show that 87 per cent of the 300,000 candidates passed their exams — compared with 85.7 per cent last year. Grades also improved so that there will be fewer places in clearing for those who missed their targets.

But the Institute of Management said that employers were increasingly concerned about the value of Britain's gold standard and Ruth Lea of the Institute of Directors said the higher pass rate should be treated with caution. "A-level

pass rates have been rising significantly in recent years and yet our surveys suggest businesses believe standards have been falling."

Lady Blackstone said there was no evidence to support that, adding: "I congratulate all this year's A-level candidates. They have worked extremely hard to achieve these results. Many have done very well and deserve credit."

However, she told teachers' leaders that she still wanted to broaden the field of study. One of those present at the meeting said afterwards: "Ministers want students to work harder. They may not want to, but the nation needs a broader curriculum which means more teaching time in the sixth form. We are talking about a five-subject system — an English baccalaureat. All concerned — schools, colleges, government and employers — believe it is essential."

A levels will survive, but as part of an "overarching" single qualification: the Advanced Diploma that was recommended by Sir Ron Dearing 18 months ago.

Ron McLone, convenor elect of the Joint Forum of Examination Boards, said that teenagers would benefit more from wide-ranging study than from concentrating on three, often very similar, subjects. "Commentators estimate that the French baccalaureat is as demanding as five A levels, and in Singapore most candidates take five A levels. Surely British teenagers are as able and hard-working as their Singaporean or French counterparts? Broadening the curriculum can be achieved without abandoning the rigour, objectivity and consistency of A levels."

Teachers' leaders are already asking where the money will come from for the thousands of extra teachers needed to allow sixth formers to take extra subjects. The Government plans to use Lottery money to improve teachers' skills, and it will launch a consultation paper on the future of qualifications for 16 to 19-year-olds in the autumn.

A-level results, page 9
Leading article, page 19
Photograph, page 22



"I'm more surprised than you — I didn't even turn up for the exam"

Tessa Blackstone, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Building society £600 windfall

About 1.2 million customers of Birmingham Midshires building society will receive around £600-£650 each after a takeover bid by the Royal Bank of Scotland which should be completed by the second half of next year.

Mortgage borrowers were cheered by the Bank of England's confirming that interest rates are unlikely to move again in the next few months, after four consecutive quarter-point hikes. Pages 23, 25, 27

11 lost in Arizona flash flood

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AT LEAST one British hiker is among 11 people reported missing after a flash flood sent a 10-foot wall of water sweeping through Antelope Canyon in Coconino County, near the town of Page, Arizona.

The freak deluge on Tuesday afternoon inundated the normally bone-dry canyon in minutes. Only six of the group of 17 hikers were able to escape



Max Hunter and Charlotte Gibb pictured together at the University of Durham

Hitch-hike Briton shot dead on Israel holiday

By ROSS DUNN IN BEERSHEBA AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

A British law graduate was shot dead and his girlfriend seriously wounded after hitchhiking a ride in Israel yesterday.

Max Hunter, 22, from Banstead, Surrey, died instantly when a suspected Arab-Israeli driver turned a gun on him and Charlotte Gibb, 20, in the heart of the Negev desert. They were found by passing Israeli soldiers.

Miss Gibb, from Deeping St James, Lincolnshire, who is recovering from a six-hour operation, and has three bullet wounds, said from her hospital bed in Beersheba: "I was in Eilat with my boyfriend — we were hitchhiking a lift to go to a kibbutz in Tiberias and we got into the car. We were both very tired, so for all but five minutes we both fell asleep."

"And the next thing my boyfriend was shaking my leg, saying 'Are you awake?' And the car stopped and we were in the middle of the mountains. It was pitch black everywhere, and the man was looking for something in the car."

A few minutes earlier, she said, her boyfriend and the driver had spoken in Hebrew. Then, without warning, the man opened fire on them. "We were having a cigarette outside the car and then I only saw lots of flashes and he shot us. I think he meant to do it from the beginning."

One bullet fired at Miss Gibb passed through both cheeks. Other bullet wounds were to her left arm and right hand. Doctors performed plastic surgery to her face.

Police officials believe the attacker may have crossed the

border into Jordan or Egypt. A manhunt involving more than 200 officers, backed up helicopters, searched the area around Eilat in an attempt to catch the murderer.

The couple started a six-week holiday on Friday, travelling and working on a kibbutz. They met at the University of Durham where they studied at Grey College.

Mr Hunter, a former scholarship pupil at Dulwich College, London, was a recent law graduate who had been expected to go on to Law School. Miss Gibb is a business and economics undergraduate about to start her second year. She had previously worked on a kibbutz after leaving school.

At the family home, the

dead man's mother, Jennifer Hunter, told how she realised he had been murdered on the radio when she heard his girlfriend's name mentioned in a news bulletin.

She said: "As soon as Charlotte's name was mentioned I knew it had to be Max with her. I immediately telephoned my husband and eventually the Foreign Office."

Her husband Norman, a clerical officer with a finance company, said: "We are all devastated. Max was the best son anyone could hope for. He was good at everything — all sports, athletics and he loved music."

He added: "He was a tremendous young man with a

Continued on page 2, col 4



Charlotte Gibb after her operation in Beersheba

Free eye and dental checks for pensioners may be restored

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are planning to restore free eye tests and dental checks for Britain's 10 million pensioners to offset a scheme to ask better-off elderly people to pay prescription charges.

The proposal to bring back free check-ups, which the Tories abandoned in 1989, would cost up to £50 million but would be more than covered by savings of about £100 million from changing pensioners with annual incomes of more than £18,000 for medicines.

Labour was committed to restoring free check-ups for everyone in 1992 but ditched this pledge before the last election, because it would have cost more than £200 million. But the Government is now seriously considering the less expensive measure of confining the free checks to elderly people, which would cost an estimated £20 million for eye tests and up to £30 million for dental checks. Eye tests cost between £14 to £15 while dental checks cost £4.16.

New Labour has balked at repealing any cost-saving measure introduced by the Tories. But the proposed restoring of free test is designed to defuse opposition over a plan to ask some elderly people to pay for prescription charges. This scheme, emerging as one of the front runners from the Government's review of health service spending.

Although Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, is resisting pressure to extend charges in other areas of the health service, it is understood that he is prepared to consider prescription charges for well-off pensioners, on the ground that they could afford it. It is believed that this would be his bottom line and he would insist that the move was

balanced by the restoration of free eye and dental checks.

Last month Mr Dobson and Tony Blair stopped short of ruling out prescription charges for the elderly. When pressed in the Commons the Prime Minister pledged that Labour would do nothing that was inconsistent with the principle of the NHS or the party's manifesto. But he said that reports that Labour was considering making pensioners pay for their prescriptions as "completely overblown."

Informed sources insist that there would be no question of means testing. Pensioners with an income of less than a certain level would have to tick a box on the back of a prescription form to show their entitlement to free medicine.

NHS prescriptions cost the Exchequer a record £1.3 billion, with more than 80 per cent of people exempt from charges. About half of the bill covers medicines for the elderly. Other groups which are currently exempt include those under 16, and those on income support. Total revenue from prescription charges is only about £310 million a year. Prescription charges have risen exponentially over the last decade and now stand at £5.65 per item, although the elderly can benefit from repeat prescriptions which are discounted over several months.

The scheme to penalise wealthier pensioners would be widely opposed by groups representing the elderly who have claimed that it would prevent people going to the doctor. In addition pensioners will argue that why should they be singled out when children of millionaires will still be entitled to free medicines. The average income for a married pensioner couple is £12,500 a year.

THE LONDON INSTITUTE

CAMBERWELL COLLEGE OF ARTS
CENTRAL SAINT MARTINS
COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
CHELSEA COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
LONDON COLLEGE OF FASHION
LONDON COLLEGE OF PRINTING
AND DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES

Some famous ex students:

BRODY
CONRAN
FANTONI
FITCH
FRINK
GALLIANO
HAMNETT
HEGARTY
KAPOOR
OLDFIELD
OZBEK

History has a habit of repeating itself

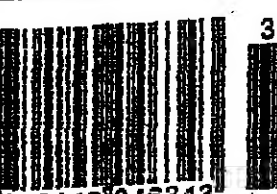
FOR COURSE INFORMATION

CONTACT RACHEL HUDSON
65 DAVIES STREET, LONDON W1V 2DA
TELEPHONE 0171 514 6129 FAX 0171 514 6131
Email: marcomellist.ac.uk

THE LONDON INSTITUTE

TV & RADIO	42, 43
WEATHER	22
CROSSWORDS	22, 44
LETTERS	19
OBITUARIES	21
W KEES-MOGG	18
ARTS	31-33
CHESS & BRIDGE	41
COURT & SOCIAL	20
SPORT	38-42, 44
LAW REPORT	28
BOOKS	34, 35

Don't miss THE TIMES OVERSEAS
Available in 40 countries. For 100p
Australia \$1.50, Canada \$1.50, Cyprus
£1.50, Denmark \$1.50, Finland
£1.50, France \$1.50, Germany
£1.50, Greece \$1.50, Hong Kong
\$1.50, India \$1.50, Ireland
£1.50, Italy \$1.50, Japan
\$1.50, Korea \$1.50, Kuwait
\$1.50, Lebanon \$1.50, Libya
\$1.50, Luxembourg \$1.50, Malta
£1.50, Mexico \$1.50, Monaco
\$1.50, Netherlands \$1.50, New
Zealand \$1.50, Norway \$1.50, Oman
\$1.50, Pakistan \$1.50, Portugal
\$1.50, Saudi Arabia \$1.50, Singapore
\$1.50, South Africa \$1.50, Spain
\$1.50, Sweden \$1.50, Switzerland
\$1.50, Taiwan \$1.50, Thailand
\$1.50, Turkey \$1.50, USA
\$1.50, Venezuela \$1.50, Zimbabwe
\$1.50.



Princess jumps queue for the crystal ball

Emma Wilkins traces events that led Diana and Dodi Fayed to fly north for a glimpse into their future

DIANA, Princess of Wales, introduced Dodi Fayed, her new companion, to her favourite clairvoyant after jumping an 18-month waiting list for appointments.

Rita Rogers, a former gypsy who lives near Chesterfield in Derbyshire, is booked up until early 1999 for consultations at £80 an hour.

The self-styled "priestess" of spiritualism felt able to make an exception for the Princess, who arrived at Mrs Rogers's house in a Harrods helicopter with Mr Fayed late on Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs Rogers, 51, who claims to have inherited her gifts from her Romany grandmother, was first introduced to the Princess five years ago by another royal client — the Duchess of York. She is said to have told the Duchess that she would marry John F. Kennedy Jr and become First Lady of America. The Duchess was so impressed that she urged the Princess to see her.

The Duchess has also consulted a Greek-born clairvoyant called Madame Vasso, who asks clients to sit under a blue plastic pyramid while she considers their energy levels. Madame Vasso, who taped recorded telephone conversations with the Duchess, later wrote a book about their consultations and was widely condemned for her indiscretion.

It is understood that the Princess was keen to consult the spirit world about her friendship with Mr Fayed. However, her office at Kensington Palace declined to comment on the visit.

The Princess and Mr Fayed made the 250-mile round trip after taking off from Battersea helipad in southwest London. The helicopter landed in a field behind Mrs Rogers's house in the village of Lower Pilsley, where a group of schoolchildren quickly spotted the commotion and took photographs which appeared in yesterday's *Mirror*.

A spokesman for the Knightsbridge department store confirmed that the helicopter in the photographs belonged to Harrods. "It's one of our helicopters, but I can't say why it was there or who

was on it." According to villagers, the landing site had been marked out by two white lines for several days before the Princess's arrival. After the 90 minute consultation, the pair left in the helicopter — the Princess trying to avoid being photographed by hiding behind a bush.

Emma Radford, 11, said she spotted the Princess and raced home to fetch her camera. "When we came back, she was getting into the helicopter. I saw the man with her and it was her boyfriend. I've seen him in the papers."

"I got very cross with us and started shouting to us to go away. We were trying to scramble over barbed wire to try and get nearer and get a better picture. We were about 30ft away when we took the picture and then they got in the helicopter and left."

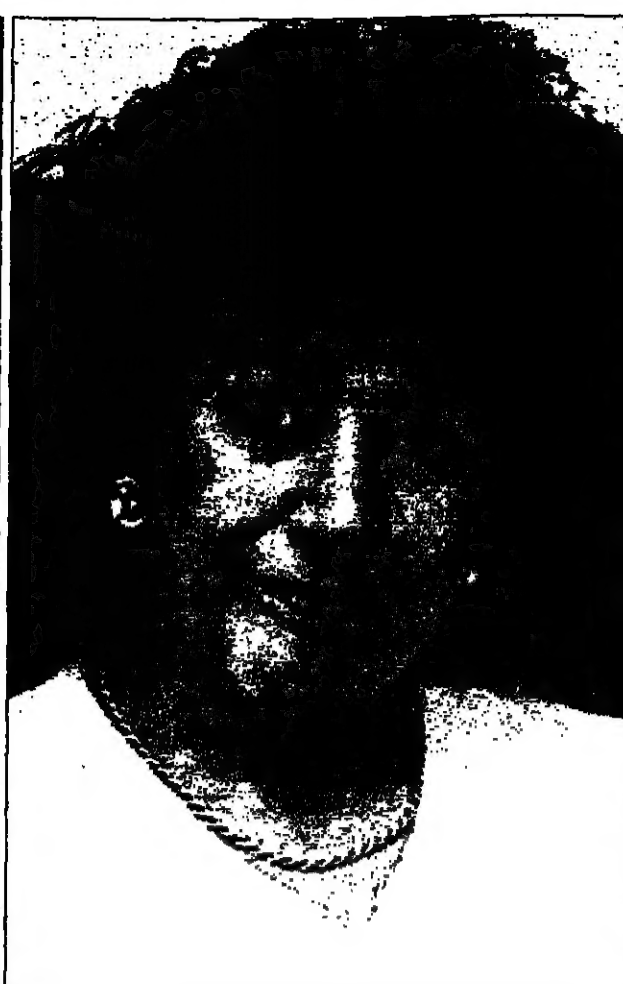
It is understood that Emma's family received £3,000 for the photographs and that they will go on holiday on the proceeds.

Mrs Rogers, who claims to be able to contact the spirits of dead children, has been consulted by parents of young victims of the Zebrugge ferry disaster. She also claims to be able to see the future, through a Romany crystal ball said to be several hundred years old.

Mrs Rogers makes no mention of her royal clients in her coming biography, titled *From One World To Another*, and will not be giving interviews on the subject, according to Robert Kirby, her literary agent. Should she



Diana, Princess of Wales, was said to be keen to consult the spirit world through the clairvoyant Rita Rogers, centre, about her friendship with Dodi Fayed



Medium who struck gold in pit village

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

TALES of crystal balls being produced in pubs and psychic encounters in the Miners' Welfare Club yesterday dominated the former pit village where Rita Rogers receives flying visits from royalty.

Lower Pilsley in Derbyshire is an unlikely venue for a medium to set up business, but locals have accepted the silver-haired, gold-carrying Mrs Rogers, despite the fact that she is rarely glimpsed. Opinion is, however, divided on her clairvoyancy, except that it makes her a lot of money, judging by the stream of smart cars arriving at her detached redbrick home.

Few locals can afford her fee, which has risen from about £10 an hour when she first arrived in the area to about £80. One, however, swears by her. Colin Brailsford, 47, a sand plant operator, made the first of four

visits 11 years after getting in a "right state" over the loss of his father and business within a short period of time. She persuaded him to quit as a steward at the Pilsley Miners' Welfare Club where he first met her.

"I had never seen her before. I went up to her and she just turned and said, 'Is it you that wanted my help in here?' Mr Brailsford said. 'It was amazing, she knew things she could never have found out about me. She took my dad's ring off my finger and said, 'This is the man who sent me to have a word with you.'"

He was told to leave the club because he had an aura of negativity and should return to being a baker. If he did so, she claimed, he would never be unemployed again, but if he did not he would soon be "in a box". Mr



Rita Rogers's home, where she has received royalty

Brailsford said the prophecies came true. "I'm a very big believer. I would take more notice of her than I would a doctor."

He brought fellow welfare club members for a group session in which she talked to them individually in the front room of her house, passing on

messages from dead relatives and friends. "The most amazing thing was one night in The Star pub. She came in and put a crystal ball on the table," he said. "My male picked it up and it sparkled like nothing. She told him he had got three children. He said, 'No, only two,' but she

insisted it was three and in fact his wife had had a miscarriage."

However, one villager has sad memories of the only time, driven by desperation after being told her four-year-old son was terminally ill with cancer, to seek Mrs Rogers's advice. Helen Priest, 37, landlady of The Commercial Inn, told how Mrs Rogers assured her in 1990 that her son Matthew would not die of a rare neuroblastoma, but less than 18 months later he was dead.

"She said, 'No one on either side of your family is going to die in the next five years.' My mother died soon afterwards. I'm not prepared to say that she doesn't help people. If she believes that she's helping people and those people believe that she is helping them, then that's got to be for the good. But she was wrong about something that was very important to me."



Emma sold pictures to a newspaper

Leading article, page 19

Alarm as visitor attempts palace coo

BY ALAN HAMILTON

MEMBERS of the Royal Household have been in something of a flap on discovering a visitor touring the state apartments of Buckingham Palace without having paid the £9 admission charge.

The palace had closed for the night on Monday, and cleaners were at work when a pigeon flew through an open window of the Blue Drawing Room. Having taken a brief look at John Nash's magnificent Regency interior decoration, it continued its tour into the adjoining State Dining Room, which appeared to be more to its liking, as it perched on an ornate cornice near the ceiling.

The staff tried to coax it down with food, but to no avail. Feeling that too much

excitement would cause it to do what pigeons do, they abandoned their efforts, closed the windows, and left it there for the night among all the fine paintwork under Nash's intricate ceiling.

On Tuesday, it had not moved far. Then it decided to move on to the East Gallery, where it remained all afternoon as some of the day's 7,000 paying customers shuffled past below.

By now, all the windows had been reopened to air the apartments on a particularly hot day, but it still showed no sign of leaving. Coincidentally, it had not yet reached some of the highlights of the official tour.

Eventually it tired of the East Gallery, and flew on to the Silk Tapestry Room, then the Picture Gallery, and finally

completed its visit with a quick circuit of the Throne Room. Only then did it leave, through another open window.

The Palace opened last Friday for its fifth annual, eight-week season. Timed tickets have until now successfully discouraged queue jumpers, and officials have not experienced such a flying visitor before.

Officials of the Royal Collection, which manages the annual public opening, were reluctant to discuss in detail whether the visitor had left the customary trail of evidence, but they admitted to finding one or two small deposits.

"It dropped in for a flying visit, and left on a wing and a prayer," said Dickie Arbiter, the Royal Collection spokesman. "It did not do any damage."

US court rules Imran is father of love child

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A LOS ANGELES judge has declared Imran Khan, the Pakistani cricketer-turned politician, to be the legal father of an illegitimate child conceived during an affair with Seta White.

Ms White, a yoga teacher who lives in Beverly Hills, and whose father was the tycoon Lord White of Hull, publicly claimed that Mr Khan was her daughter's father while he was fighting to become Pakistan's Prime Minister in January's election. Mr Khan denied the claim. In Pakistan no one who admits to being the parent of an illegitimate child may run for public office.

Mr Khan, who was heavily defeated in the election, was yesterday declared to be the father of four-year-old Tyran-Jade White by default after he had refused to take a blood test and reportedly had an offer to settle the case out of court turned down by Ms White, 36. "They tried to offer me money," she said, "but I wouldn't take it. It's not about money, it's about my daughter." Outside the Los Angeles County Superior Court yesterday Ms White added: "I feel relief. Now my daughter knows who her biological father is, and Mr Khan should apologise to his people."

A feminist lawyer, Gloria Alfred, said court papers would be delivered to Mr Khan in Pakistan, where he



Seta White and Imran Khan: her allegations came to light while he was running in the Pakistani election



lives with his wife, Jemima, daughter of the late Sir James Goldsmith.

Ms Alfred added: "Mr Khan should recognise that no game of politics is more important than his little daughter. I issue a challenge to him to come forward and take responsibility for his child."

Ms White claims that her daughter was conceived in October 1991 when, she says, an affair had taken place with Mr Khan between 1987 and 1988 was resumed.

It was alleged that, on hearing that an ultrasound test during Ms White's pregnancy had shown that she was expecting a girl, Mr Khan was upset and urged her to have an abortion, saying the child "would not be able to play cricket". Ms White refused to

have an abortion and has kept Mr Khan informed of her daughter's progress since her birth, including sending him pictures of her. He has never seen Tyran-Jade.

"He's been making excuses since January," Ms White said yesterday, displaying the judge's signed papers for photographers. "But now the truth is out."

Ms White has not yet sued Mr Khan for child support payments in the United States, but plans to do so in London as part of a similar paternity lawsuit which is expected to reach a conclusion next week.

Ms Alfred had the final word yesterday saying: "It is not cricket for a father to deny his child in order to gain a political advantage."

Eubank fined for careless driving

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE former world boxing champion Chris Eubank was ordered to pay almost £1,000 yesterday in fines and costs for careless driving after scattering pedestrians on a pelican crossing as he sped through narrow streets blaring the horn of his Range Rover.

Dawn Walsley, for the prosecution, told magistrates at Brighton that Eubank appeared at high speed over the brow of a hill close to the railway station. "He drove on to the wrong side of the road, overtaking stationary vehicles approaching the red light at a pelican crossing," said Ms Walsley. "He caused pedestrians to take action to avoid being struck."

She said Eubank, of Hove, East Sussex, forced a BMW turning right to pull into the middle of the road to avoid a collision. Its driver then followed Eubank's car to the railway station, where the boxer leaped out and dashed inside, leaving both his front doors wide open.

Eubank told the court that he had not been in a hurry. "I have never driven like that," he said. But Ms Walsley reminded him of his earlier conviction for careless driving after he knocked down and killed a roadside workman.

His licence also endorsed with six penalty points.

MPW Mander Portman Woodward Independent Sixth-Form Colleges A-LEVEL & GCSE RETAKE COURSES

- ◆ RESULTS: 69% AB, 87% ABC*
- ◆ INTENSIVE TUITION FOR RETAKES
- ◆ MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE OF SEVEN
- ◆ STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT
- ◆ WEEKLY EXAM PRACTICE

*Audited results of all 340 A Level exams taken over the full range of Arts and Science subjects in MPW colleges during January 1996 and January 1997.

LONDON (SCIENCES) 0171 584 8555
LONDON (ARTS) 0171 835 1355
BIRMINGHAM 0121 454 9637
CAMBRIDGE 01223 350158
BRISTOL 0117 925 5688



'Good guy' Biggs plans final hold-up

A DISHEVELLED Ronnie Biggs, who hobbles wearily around his modest home in Rio de Janeiro with a broken knee, looks more like a careworn grandfather than a crook who took part in the Great Train Robbery.

"I don't want to die in prison. I am a tired old man, near the end of my days," Biggs, 68, said, on hearing about the signing of a formal extradition treaty with Brazil.

The agreement came into effect yesterday after an exchange of documents between Keith Haskell, the Ambassador to Brazil, and Foreign Ministry officials in Brasilia. It allows Britain to request the extradition of its most infamous fugitive to serve the outstanding 29 years of his 30-year sentence.

But fresh doubts have arisen about whether the treaty will help. Although he said he is "ready to throw the towel in" and surrender amicably, his lawyers have already indicated they will appeal against the extradition.

They will try to use a statute of limitations, a Brazilian law which annuls punishment if a criminal succeeds in avoiding the authorities for more than 15 years. Biggs's lawyers also plan to appeal on the grounds that the same crime, committed in Brazil, would have resulted in a lesser sentence.

Supreme Court authorities who will study a possible extradition request have not ruled out handing Biggs over

Lawyers aim to foil Home Office plans to apply for the robber's extradition in the next few days, reports Gabriella Gmini

to British authorities, but whatever the outcome, they are likely to take months to decide. Meanwhile, Biggs will make the most of fact that he has been a good citizen since he took refuge in Rio de Janeiro in 1970.

"I have been a good guy and lived an honest life. Why would they want to lock me up now?" he said. "So much time has gone by and I am a harmless old fool," he added, with his rottweiler, Blitz, sitting by his feet.

Biggs claimed he had moved on from the days when

he took part in one of the crimes of the century, and bagged a share of £2.6 million (estimated to be worth £35 million today) in August 1963.

His "biggest regret" was the death of train driver Jack Mills, who was injured during the robbery. "The train driver's death lies heavily on my conscience. There is not one day that goes by when I don't think about it," he said.

"But I have lived a life of a recluse far away from my country and have had ample time to reflect on my wrongdoing. Jail is not always a

deterrent for a criminal. Most of the time it just leads people into a life of crime. People often turn to me for advice and I always discourage them from crooked ways," he added. Biggs served 13 months for armed robbery before jumping the wall at Wandsworth prison into a furniture removal van in 1965. He escaped to Paris where he spent £30,000 on a facelift, and then boarded a ship to Australia to join his wife and two children.

But he was lured away by a friend who showed him a romantic sunset photograph of Rio. "I looked at it and said that's the place for me," he recalled.

Plans to extradite him in 1974 failed because his Brazilian girlfriend at the time had a child with him. Michael, now 23, was for a long time the legal loophole which kept Biggs in Brazil, having a dependant in the country guaranteed him a visa until his son became 21.

Biggs is seen locally as an eccentric tourist attraction rather than a criminal. He says that the robbery money ran out years ago, and he now makes a living from charging tourists \$60 (£38) each for what he calls "The Ronnie Biggs Experience". It includes lunch at his poolside, having a "knees up" and hearing the story of the robbery.

Yesterday Home Office sources said an application for the extradition would be made within the next few days.

"The train driver's death lies heavily on my conscience. There is not one day that goes by when I don't think about it"



Driver Jack Mills: died



Ronnie Biggs at home with his rottweiler, Blitz. "Why lock me up now?" he said

Jail ban ends nuns' smuggling habits

By A Staff Reporter

TWO nuns caught smuggling tobacco and food to inmates in a top-security jail have been banned from prison visiting for life.

Sister Anna and Sister Annunciatia, who was nicknamed "St Bruno" by the inmates, were caught by prison guards taking tobacco, duck eggs, cheese and meat in their bags destined for prisoners at Kingston jail in Portsmouth.

The nuns, from Wickham, Hampshire, were interviewed by police amid claims that they had been smuggling luxury goods into the prison for several years. They were given official cautions and prison chiefs confirmed yesterday that a life ban had now been imposed on them carrying out further goodwill visits to the jail.

A Prison Service spokesman said that the decision had been taken in light of the police caution. Father Derek Reeve, the prison chaplain, plans to hold talks with Kingston's governor in the hope of getting the ban overturned. "The sisters are very upset," he said. "They were not doing anything illegal — they were doing something they've been doing for years."

The nuns have been visiting lifers at Kingston, Britain's only jail exclusively for prisoners serving life sentences, for around 30 years. They have declined to comment about the ban.

Homes ablaze as storms strike the South East

By NIGEL HAWKES

SIX houses in Kent were struck by lightning as storms swept across southeast England early yesterday. Thousands of homes lost power during the bad weather.

The roof of a house in Rochester burst into flames and collapsed after being struck by lightning. Nobody was injured as the occupants were on holiday. A Kent Fire Brigade spokesman said: "We did not need a number for the house because you could see the fire for miles."

Lightning also damaged houses in Snodland, Allhallows, Sevenoaks and Sittingbourne. In Strood, rain caused floods up to 18in deep.

The storms cut power supplies to more than 15,000 homes. By breakfast, about half had been reconnected.

The problem has been localised areas of 50 or 60 people, but there has been a lot of these," an electricity company spokesman said.

The storms crossed Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Essex and London early in the morning, before moving into East Anglia. The rain brought relief from exceptionally humid

conditions, but forecasters expected it to be temporary. They forecast high temperatures until at least the end of the week.

A warning of heavy rain overnight in Scotland was issued by the Meteorological Office yesterday. The rain and thunderstorms were expected to break first over central and southern Scotland and then spread north, causing localised flooding.

Friends of the Earth has claimed that government information about air pollution consistently underestimates the problem. The environmental group said that the Government has described air quality as "good" on 94 per cent of the occasions when it exceeded the Government's own safe level.

Ozone levels are described as poor only when they exceed 90 parts per billion as a one-hour average, while the health standard of 50 ppb is set for an eight-hour period. Therefore, Friends of the Earth said, the standards were not directly comparable.

Forecast, page 22

Mice show how coffee perks up mornings

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE caffeine jolt that many people need to get moving in the morning has been explained with the aid of mice.

Rodents genetically engineered to lack the receptor in the brain to which caffeine locks on — so behaving as though they had had a surfeit of coffee — were found to be anxious and aggressive. They felt little pain and had increased blood pressure and heart rate. These observations fit in with clinical evidence that caffeine increases anxiety and diminishes the perception of pain.

Marc Parmentier and colleagues at the Free University of Brussels created the mice by removing the gene responsible for making the receptor, which is also locked on to by adenosine, a chemical important in many tissues. The mice showed that adenosine is important in the control of mood. In a commentary in the same issue of *Nature* in which the report appears, Solomon Snyder of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore says that the finding may lead to new painkillers.



Heinz and June Fellrich after their 1947 marriage, and the couple yesterday

Golden moment for couple who braved war prejudice

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

WHEN 18-year-old June Tull and Heinz Fellrich announced in 1947 that they were getting married, they got two sackfuls of hate mail.

They were the first couple to marry after the wartime ban on marrying prisoners of war was lifted, and today they celebrate their golden wedding anniversary with their six children, 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

"It will be the proudest day of my life, made even more special by the fact that so many thought we would never last," Mrs Fellrich, now 69, said yesterday.

"I will never forget when I announced to my mum that I

was marrying Heinz. She turned to me and said: 'I'll give you six months.'"

They met when Miss Tull spotted Mr Fellrich, 25, behind the wires of a prison camp in Southampton. She asked him to go for a walk, and soon the couple were courting regularly, although camp rules dictated that Mr Fellrich had to return before dusk.

After three weeks of secret meetings, Mrs Fellrich knew she had to tell her family. "It wasn't as bad as I'd imagined. But my aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents refused to have anything more to do with me if I carried on seeing Heinz." To this day she has still not seen many of them.

Mrs Fellrich was already pregnant when the prisoner of war marriage ban was lifted in July 1947, and the couple immediately booked a wedding date in August.

Soon the hate mail arrived. "Many of the letters were from women who had lost brothers, husbands, fathers and other relatives," she said. "People felt very strongly that I would be a traitor... But I was so in love and that was all that mattered."

The couple settled in Eastleigh, Southampton, where they still live. Mr Fellrich found work as a farmhand. "We had our family and our lives together," he said. "Nobody's prejudices could spoil that."

WORRIED BY
ANOTHER MORTGAGE
RATE RISE? FIX IT.

7.18%
(7.5% APR)

MORTGAGE FIXED UNTIL OCTOBER 2002

If you're moving home or are a first time buyer and have a 25%* deposit, this is the deal for you. Abbey National's new mortgage offer of 7.18% (7.5% APR) is fixed until 31st October 2002. And, with a Valuation Bonus, a refund of up to £325 towards valuation fees, you'll find it hard to beat.

To make the most of this or any of our other mortgage offers, visit your local branch or phone 0800 100 800, Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm and Saturday 8am to 4pm, quoting reference A593A/10.

ABBEY NATIONAL
www.abbeynational.co.uk



MORTGAGES

M73

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.
To assist us in improving our service we may record or monitor telephone calls. *of purchase price or valuation price, whichever is lower. For the above fixed rate there is a £350 non-refundable booking fee and completion must take place by 12.12.97. To benefit from this fixed rate you must make a deposit of at least 25%. Valuation Bonus consists of a refund towards the cost of a valuation for mortgage purposes up to a maximum of £325 if on or before 31.10.2002 you redeem the mortgage, unless simultaneously with redemption a new mortgage is completed with us (except one administered with Abbey National Mortgage Finance plc), transfer from the fixed rate before the end of the fixed rate period, or make capital repayments (except normal monthly repayments on a repayment mortgage), a charge of 180 days' gross interest at the fixed rate on the amount repaid or transferred will be payable. All offers are subject to credit checks and may be withdrawn at any time. Typical example for a Fixed Rate of 7.18% (7.5% APR) until 31.10.2002: to include Valuation Bonus. A couple (male and female), who currently do not have a mortgage with Abbey National, aged 29, applying for an endowment mortgage of £40,000 on a purchase price of £60,000, secured over 25 years, 300 monthly interest payments of £212.40 net of tax relief plus the final repayment of £40,000 capital, 300 monthly endowment premiums of £56.38. Total amount payable £112,359.70 includes £350 booking fee, £65 deeds handling fee (charged on redemption), £117.50 legal fees, £28.20 second interest assuming completion on 28.11.97. Example calculated at 7.18% (7.5% APR). All APRs are typical and variable and based on an endowment mortgage. Please note in addition to the charge applying to the fixed rate we will charge a fee equivalent to the benefit you receive under Valuation Bonus if, on or before 31.10.2002, the mortgage is repaid, unless a new mortgage is completed simultaneously with us (rather than a mortgage administered by Abbey National Mortgage Finance plc). All rates correct at time of going to press. Secured loans and mortgages require a charge on the property and in the case of an endowment mortgage, an endowment life policy for the amount of the advance and a charge over the policy. All loans subject to status and valuation and not available to persons under 18 years of age. We require the property to be insured. Written quotations are available on request. Abbey National plc, which is regulated by the Personal Financials Authority, only sells its own life assurance, pension and unit trust products. Abbey National and the Umbrella Couple symbol are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom.

Numberplate king reaps Net profit from new domain

Mark Henderson reports on the trade in Web sites

A FORMER personalised numberplate salesman is making thousands of pounds from companies launching themselves on the Internet, after his firm bought up hundreds of the most popular Web site names.

The music shop Tower Records and the car magazine Auto Trader are among the companies that have had to negotiate with Steve Jackson of the Preston-based Internet service provider UKIP, which owned the rights to names they wished to use on the Net.

Mr Jackson, 31, who founded UKIP five years ago with five partners, has registered more than 700 "domains" in the past 18 months, and has sold more than 30 at more than £1,000 each. This week Tower Records paid UKIP

£1,200 for tower.co.uk. UKIP also holds the rights to finance.co.uk, money.co.uk and boat.co.uk, and has cornered the market for cycling Web sites with bike, bikes, bicycle and bicycles. Finance.co.uk would set you back about £10,000, while the most expensive site registered by UKIP, car.co.uk, would cost £50,000.

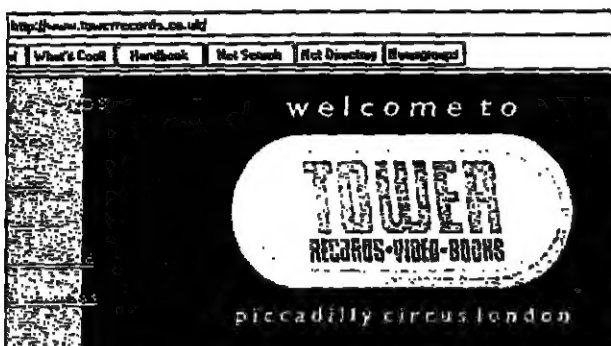
Mr Jackson, the only partner in the firm who does not have a background in computer programming, spent six years buying and selling personalised numberplates. "I noticed how similar the two markets were, and spotted a niche," he said. "We went through looking for all sorts of generic names people were likely to want, and registering them. We wouldn't dream of

touching someone's trademark."

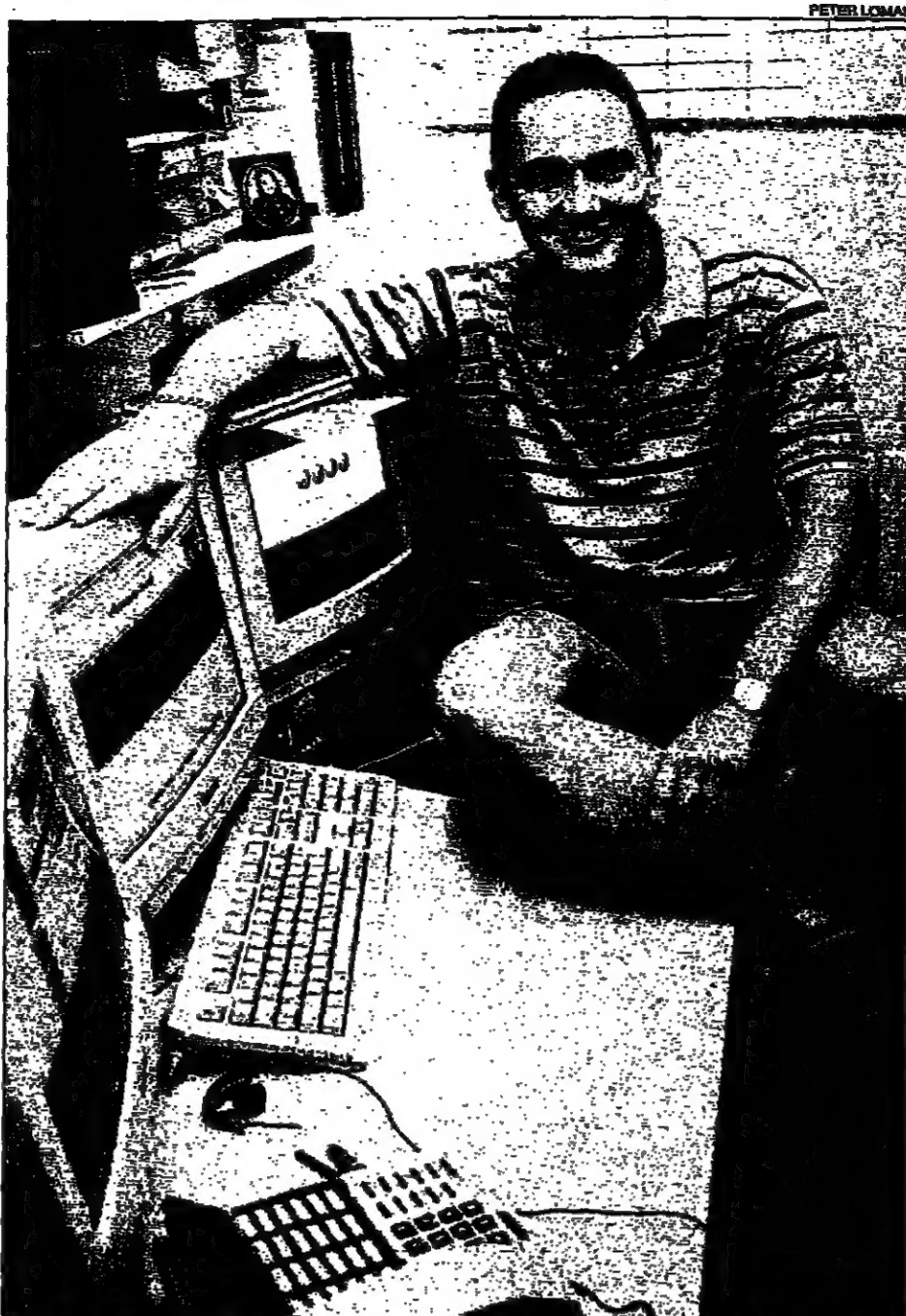
Generic words such as car and money could be registered free of charge until a year ago, when the British licensing authority Nominet was set up. It charges an £80 administration fee; American Internet licensing authorities charge about \$100. It is a breach of copyright to register trademarks in this country, and Harrods recently reached an out-of-court settlement with a speculator who tried to register Harrods.co.uk.

Other Internet firms have also got in on the act. Domnames, a Southampton-based firm that registers domains for its clients, has registered the rights to gdn2000 and games2000. The director, John Ward, intends to lease these at £30 a time to companies wanting to set up Web sites for the next Olympics. "I will make a fortune," he said. He was offered \$150,000 for the games2000 domain, and has been threatened with legal action by the US Olympic Committee.

Companies are sanguine about having to pay to use the domains that suit them. Mary Carson, digital services manager of Tower Records, said: "I didn't have a choice, and I'm sure it would cost us a lot more in a year's time."



Tower Records on the Net: a UKIP customer



Steve Jackson, who has registered more than 700 desirable Web site names

Hospital chiefs prosecuted over safety lapses

By LIN JENKINS

THE managers of a large hospital who allegedly showed a blatant disregard for safety regulations are to face a landmark criminal prosecution.

So widespread was the failure to comply with the law on protection for nurses and patients that the Health and Safety Executive has taken the unprecedented step of bringing court action.

A routine inspection of Princess Margaret Hospital in Swindon discovered breaches of the rules governing such things as the removal of clinical waste including contaminated needles and infectious material, and proper maintenance of an area for post-mortem examinations.

It is alleged that the hospital had no secure unit for the containment of contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, which could be sealed and fumigated. Nor were there policies to deal with the risk of violence towards nurses, or the risks they faced handling patients manually, which is the prime cause of injury in the profession.

The Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, will appear before Swindon magistrates next Wednesday. The charge, under the 1992 Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations, alleges that hospital managers "failed to make appropriate arrangements for effective control of

preventive and protective measures to ensure the health and safety of employees and other people affected by their activities."

A spokeswoman for the Health and Safety Executive said: "This is the first time we have taken a trust to court for alleged bad practices without a specific accident having occurred. Since the breaches cover a whole raft of areas it was decided to bring court proceedings immediately rather than deal with it by way of enforcement notices."

Investigators allegedly found numerous breaches of regulations, and decided that they were all due to a failure of the managers to devise and implement proper health and safety policy.

The maximum penalty magistrates can impose on the trust is a £5,000 fine. However, if they feel their powers are inadequate they can refer the case to the Crown Court where the fine is unlimited.

Two elderly patients, needed emergency treatment after a 7ft by 3ft pane of glass fell on them at the Princess Margaret Hospital on Tuesday. Both were treated in the hospital's accident and emergency department for minor injuries. They were taking part in an education session in a ward.

An investigation is under way into how the glass came loose. The incident is not connected with the HSE prosecution.

Leftists rally in appeal for even-handedness

By KATHRYN KNIGHT, OUR LEFT-HANDED CORRESPONDENT

WE WERE once condemned as sinister and unlucky, but yesterday hundreds of cack-handed, cow-pawed and gawp-handed citizens gathered to celebrate the condition that links them with Marilyn Monroe, Jack the Ripper and Prince William.

The sixth international Left-handers Day was celebrated with events including a right versus left cricket match and a southpaw corkscrew competition. Once condemned to spend schooldays with their left hands tied behind their backs, left-handers are now largely left in peace, but still struggle with a series of practical problems, according to the organiser, Lauren Milson.

"More and more gadgets are designed for convenience, but they are designed for right-handers' convenience," Mrs Milson said. "We're not campaigning for the world to

be left-handed, we just want it to be ambidextrous."

To that end, some of Britain's six million lefties went to Covent Garden's main piazza to test gadgets designed to make life easier. The "Pirouette" kettle swivels on its stand to make it easier to pour from either left or right. A left-hander's computer keyboard has the main function keys on the left.

More suited to the "things you never knew you needed" drawer were the left-hander's mug (slogan on the outside, left-handed ruler (numbers run right to left) and left-handed address book (index on the left). Mrs Milson said: "Some of these are just for fun, but there's been so much negativity in the past, with people suggesting we're bad luck, that we wanted to show we can be a positive force."

The word "left" comes from the Anglo-Saxon *lft*, mean-

ing weak or broken. However, powerful figures who have favoured their left hand include Einstein, Picasso, Leonardo da Vinci and the last three US Presidents.

The Left-Handers Club was also hoping the day would highlight its campaign for recognition of left-handed children's special teaching needs. Few teachers realise that they need different tuition to be able to write easily and comfortably. Mrs Milson said: "A lot of teachers think they can just tell left-handed children to copy the way they write, but it is not as simple as that. Left-handers copying right-handed writing end up twisting their hands and bodies round to avoid getting in the way of the pen or dragging their hands across the ink, then in later life they are frustrated that they cannot write fast and their hands ache."

TIME'S RUNNING OUT. OUR 30th ANNIVERSARY SALE ENDS ON 31st AUGUST.

All good things must come to an end, and unfortunately that includes the Daewoo Sale.

- SALE 1. £500 cashback.
- SALE 2. £500 worth of fuel vouchers.
- SALE 3. The choice of up to £750 worth of Daewoo electronic products.
- SALE 4. £500 towards your deposit with Daewoo Direct Finance. Typical APR 11.2%.

So hurry if you want to benefit from one of these offers available to every private customer buying a new car (written details available on request).

But don't worry, as you'd expect every new Daewoo still comes with the following peace of mind package as standard:

- 1.) 3 year/60,000 mile free servicing.
- 2.) 3 year Daewoo Total AA cover.
- 3.) 3 year/60,000 mile comprehensive warranty. And on orders placed before 31st August, 3 years free comprehensive insurance, subject to status. Daewoo's fixed prices, including delivery and 12 months road tax, start from just £9,445. To find out where your nearest store is, call us on 0800 666 222.

SALE OFFERS AND 3 YEARS PEACE OF MIND? THAT'LL BE THE DAEWOO.

£100,000 OF LIFE INSURANCE FROM £8.73 A MONTH*

It only costs so little to leave them a lot

- Civil Servants
- Town Hall Employees
- Teachers
- Lecturers
- Post Office Staff
- NHS Staff
- Police
- Nurses
- Fire Service
- Prison Officers
- Ambulance Services

LIFE INSURANCE

0800 147 147

Open 9am-5pm 7 days a week

PLEASE QUOTE REF: LTM1408

ZURICH MUNICIPAL
Focusing on the Public Sector

*Premium of £8.73 includes public sector discount. Example given is a 10-year level term assurance policy for a married non-smoking 30-year-old female local government official. The premium cannot vary, but would vary according to individual circumstances and is subject to acceptance at ordinary rates. Premiums are dependent on a number of factors and are particularly higher for males, smokers and older ages.

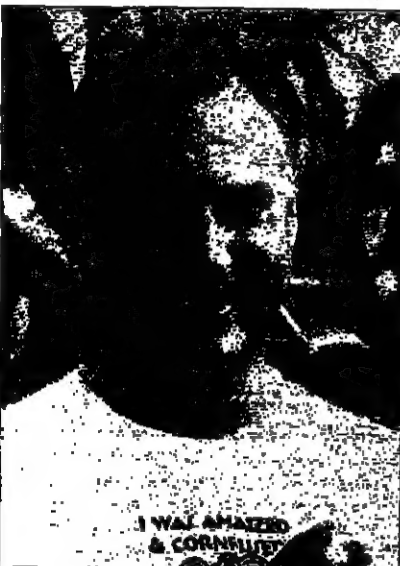
Zurich Municipal is a trading name of Zurich Life Assurance Company Limited, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority. For life assurance and investment business with a member of the Financial Services Authority, Zurich Municipal is authorised to accept deposits of money from the public. Zurich Municipal is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). Zurich Life Assurance Company Limited is registered in England, No. 016059. Registered Office: Zurich House, St Andrew's Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 1DU.

Offer also applies to spouses

World's biggest maze is next cash crop



Visitors to the maze at Millets Farm are given flags on tall poles to wave if they get lost among the 8ft maize. There are 3.73 miles of paths within the maze, which is designed in the shape of a windmill



Adrian Fisher, the maze's designer

A CORNFIELD in Oxfordshire will for the next two months be the improbable setting for what is claimed to be the biggest maze in the world.

Cut from almost eight acres of 8ft-high maize at Millets Farm Centre near Abingdon, the labyrinth contains 3.73 miles of paths and junctions in the shape of a windmill. The craze for maize mazes began in the United States four years ago, where the bizarre crop formations have attracted tens of thousands of visitors. Farming entrepreneurs in Britain are hoping the money-spinning idea will catch on here.

For Nigel Carter, managing director of the 1,000-acre Millets Farm, the maize maze is only the latest example of diversifying the business, which already includes a farm shop, restaurant, garden centre, and pick-your-own fruit and vegetable business.

"I first heard of the idea for a maize maze at a cocktail party earlier this year," he said. "I decided to give it a try as I had

An enterprising farmer in Oxfordshire hopes to supplement his income by persuading hundreds of visitors to get lost, reports Michael Hornsby

a perfect patch of land available." Mr Carter hired the services of Adrian Fisher, who runs a company in Portsmouth which has designed 150 mazes of every conceivable size and shape in countries around the world, from conventional hedges to brick and mosaic pavements, mirrors and waterfalls.

"The world maze record is the horticultural equivalent of the America's Cup," Mr Fisher said. "It has been broken several times in the United States in recent years, so it was high time for Britain to put in a challenge." He has designed several cornfield mazes in the United States, including one with 3.01 miles of paths in Detroit in 1996, until now the biggest on record.

The maize was sown in April. When it reached nine inches, the designers pulled

out the young shoots to leave a network of bare paths, working from a paper plan.

Mr Carter says the creation of the maze has cost him £10,000, but he hopes to attract enough visitors to turn a profit. Visitors are supplied with a map and flags on long poles which they can wave if they get hopelessly lost. T-shirts are on sale at the exit bearing the slogan "I was amazed and confused".

"We hope we are not going to lose anyone and find a pile of mouldering bones in some corner of the field when we come to harvest the crop," Mr Carter's wife, Juliet, said. "We have a rule that all children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult."

There are viewing platforms which people can climb onto to get their

bearings and a number of well-signed emergency exits. We also have a loud-speaker system and can call on anyone still in the maze at the end of the day to wave their flags. If the worst comes to the worst, it would be easy to break out."

A party of children from King Alfred's School in Wantage, who were sent on a trial run through the maze yesterday, solved the puzzle within 20 minutes. Tanya McCormack, 15, said: "It was easier than I expected, though I was glad that we had the map." Lisa Steel, also 15, said: "It was brilliant. We did get lost once and went round in circles."

Mr Fisher's obsession with mazes began more than 20 years ago when he created one in his father's three-acre garden in Dorset. But his career really took off after he wrote a letter to *The*

Times in 1980. "I had heard Dr Robert Runcie, in his enthronement sermon on becoming Archbishop of Canterbury, use the metaphor of the maze to describe the human journey through life."

"I wrote to *The Times* pointing out that mazes had a long religious history, which included the pavement mazes laid in the stone floors of Gothic cathedrals in France."

As a result, Mr Fisher received his first major commission, the creation of a brick-path maze, featuring much Christian symbolism, in a large garden near Henley-on-Thames. Dr Runcie opened the maze.

Starting today, the Millets Farm maze is open to the public from 10am to 6pm (last admissions 4.30pm) every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from today until the corn cobs are harvested in late October to provide winter feed for Mr Carter's herd of dairy cows. Entry costs £3 for adults, £2 for children and £10 for a family ticket.

Children to cost £100,000 each

No, it's not a new tax on children. Worse, this is the real cost you can expect to spend bringing up a child if you are an ordinary family on an average income. And that's after you've taken child benefit into account.

And if your child goes into private school and is likely to go onward to university, you could easily be looking at three times that.

These shock findings come from 'What Price a Child?', an investigative study into the cost of child-rearing by well-known consumer journalist and broadcaster Jan Walsh.

Startling fact number 1

Where will the money come from if you or your partner are unlucky enough to die? £100,000 is a lot to find. Over twenty years it comes to just under £100 a week.

Yet amazingly, less than 45% of parents protect their families' future by simply insuring their lives.

Nobody expects to die young but if you think of five sets of parents who live near you, or whose children go to the same school as yours – the chances are that one of you will be dead before you're sixty**. Of course, simple odds say it won't be you, but do you really want to take that chance?

Startling fact number 2

A different sort of surprising fact is that from just £6 a month you can insure your life for the



£100,000 it takes to bring up a child. So Why don't you? Why don't so many others?

Virgin's own research shows that it's not because people can't afford £6 a month. It is largely because, until now, the business of taking out life insurance has been, to put it mildly, difficult and tedious.

Startling fact number 3

Well here's our amazing final fact. What's the time right now? You could be covered within ten minutes of reaching the end of this sentence if you pick up the phone and call Virgin Direct on 0345 95 95 95. Why not do it now?

THE FAST, EASY WAY TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY.

The Virgin Family Capital Protector pays a tax-free cash sum if you die. All you need to do is decide how much cover you require. You'll probably want the cover to last until your children are old enough to look after themselves. (For example, this might be £200,000 over 10 years if you've got 2 children aged 7 and 8.) When you call, we usually give you a guaranteed price within ten minutes. Then we send you an information pack with all the forms already filled in – and if we've given you a firm price, you'll also get two weeks free cover. This gives you time to think it over or shop around to try and find better value (not easy). Then just sign the forms and return them to us. Easy.

Virgin direct
personal financial services

0345 95 95 95

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

Insurer urges wealthy to wear cheap watches

Stewart Tendler on a six-point checklist to discourage 'Rolex raiders'

AN INSURER has advised wealthy clients to wear cheap watches and costume jewellery to discourage attacks by "Rolex raiders". Affluent families have also been told not to pose for magazines such as *Hellot* and *Tatler* wearing their best jewellery, and to keep valuable paintings, furniture and objects out of photographs taken at home.

Scotland Yard estimates that there have been about 250 street robberies in affluent areas in the nine months to June. Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications, and his wife Theresa lost a £1,000 necklace and cash when attacked outside their Mayfair home in April. The wife of Bernard Ecclestone, the Formula One racing chief, had a £65,000 diamond ring taken.

The six-point crime prevention plan was sent to 600 clients by Nordstern, a City insurance company that specialises in fine art and a wealthy clientele. It was drawn up by two former

Scotland Yard officers: Charles Hill was a detective chief inspector with Scotland Yard's arts and antiques squad, and finished his police career investigating Rolex robbers in the Belgravia area; Stephen Flack was a crime prevention officer working for the Flying Squad.

Mr Hill said Rolex robbers were "seasonal animals" who operated widely in summer when expensive watches and jewellery were more easily visible. "It is foolhardy for wealthy people to wear really

valuable things when they are out in the summer," he said. In his letter to clients, Mr Hill said that the summer rise in muggings had become "an annual event" in Belgravia, Mayfair, Kensington and Chelsea. Nordstern has had at least one claim of more than £10,000 for a stolen Rolex.

The crime prevention advice includes:

□ Avoid wearing a valuable watch or jewellery with short-sleeved clothes.

□ Consider using an inexpensive watch or cheap jewellery

for everyday wear. "Rolex and other manufacturers of valuable watches and jewellery may not thank you but discerning thieves are less likely to target you in the street."

□ Resist the "temptation to appear in glossy magazine photographs with your jewels revealed to the world. Criminals in and out of prison spend hours on their research and are some of those magazines' most avid readers."

□ Take particular care when parking. In car parks, try to find a space near the attendant's kiosk and always avoid isolated spots.

□ Discourage house-to-house callers. Take descriptions of suspicious cars or individuals.

□ Carry a portable alarm.

A spokeswoman for Scotland Yard said detectives thought that the advice was sensible, although costume jewellery might still attract thieves. Mr Hill said that many thieves were capable of spotting a fake Rolex from a few feet away, and would not then bother to attack.

Decoy plan goes wrong

An undercover detective posing as an affluent Middle-Eastern businessman to trap Rolex raiders was injured when a robber attacked him (Stewart Tendler writes). The robber was chased by police but escaped in a Mercedes found abandoned yesterday.

Detective Constable Shaikh Ali, 31, was walking in Mayfair late on Tuesday

night. A robber approached with a knife and there was a struggle. An unmarked police car was supposed to move in but was blocked by traffic.

The operation is part of a drive by 40 officers against the thefts. Scotland Yard has been running a campaign to curb the raiders under Operation Eagle Eye, aimed at street robbers.



Heather Shram with her father Robert yesterday. He donated her one of his kidneys in a transplant last week.

Daughter's smile made transplant all worthwhile

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who flew 3,000 miles to donate a kidney to his teenage daughter told yesterday of how seeing her smile after the operation had made it all worthwhile.

Robert Shram, 47, who travelled from America, said that deciding to go ahead with the transplant "makes me feel great".

His daughter Heather has suffered from kidney disease since childhood. The pair held hands as they spoke, at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, about the successful operations.

Miss Shram, 18, from Exmouth, receives the results of her A levels in mathematics, psychology and English today. She said that having one of her father's kidneys "felt great". She first had a kidney transplant at the age of 7, but her body rejected the organ seven years later and she had to resume dialysis treatment. "I feel better than after the last transplant - I feel so much stronger."

Mr Shram, an engineer who is remarried and lives in Philadelphia, said that, contrary to his expectations, he had not been nervous about the surgery. "The night before the operation I went out to the pub for a beer. I asked one of

the nurses if it would be OK, and I had some Guinness."

Heather's mother Barbara had offered to donate a kidney but was found to be incompatible. Father and daughter were in adjoining theatres for the operations, which took more than six hours. Mr Shram recalled that, afterwards, he had seen a smiling Heather walking towards him down the hospital corridor. The sight had made him feel that "everything was worth it".

Justin Morgan, the surgeon who carried out the transplant, praised Miss Shram as "a very brave girl" for coping with years of dialysis. She was "very well" after the operation and the kidney was "working nicely", said Mr Morgan. Her father was making "a nice recovery" and should be back to full health within three months.

Miss Shram, a student at Exmouth Community College, who wants to study mathematics at university, said she was hoping to join an athletics club, take up running and jumping again, and compete in the British Transplant Games once more. As a child, she won six medals, four of them gold, at the games.

Airline asks volunteers to stay on holiday isle

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN AIRLINE flying 140 people home from Greece had to ask for ten volunteers to stay in the departure lounge after blaming the heat for unexpected weight restrictions. The rest flew without their luggage, which was unloaded to allow the plane to get into the air.

The travellers were told that it was an act of God, and face a fight for compensation. A spokeswoman for Peach Air, a subsidiary of Caledonian Airways, said: "It was so hot - over 40C - that weight restrictions were placed on the flight."

The heat and poor air quality on Zakynthos meant the Boeing jet could take off only with a reduced payload.

Cosmar, the tour operator, said: "It was a series of circumstances beyond our control. It was an act of God."

Peter Young, 25, of Brandon, Durham, a factory worker who was with his girlfriend, Vicky Marr, said: "It was only as we took off that we were told our luggage wasn't coming with us."

Ms Marr, 17, said: "No one could quite believe it when a man from the tour firm stood on a chair in the departure lounge and asked for volunteers not to get on the flight."

"Nobody seemed in a rush to volunteer. From what I could tell they just told the last ten people in the queue that they wouldn't be able to fly."

The passengers who were left behind had to wait for the next available flight.

Heathrow battle with luggage backlog

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of airline passengers have taken off from Heathrow without their luggage this summer because of a near collapse of the baggage handling system.

At least 10,000 pieces of luggage, including a wedding gown's outfit and nine sets of drums, have gone astray because of equipment failures and new security measures.

British Airways, the airport's biggest customer, had 2,000 bags left behind at the end of one day last week. The Celtic Inn Manawatu Pipe Band, from New Zealand, found that nine sets of drums and 12 suitcases were missing. A couple travelling from Madrid to Edinburgh to get married were left with only the bride dress.

Heathrow normally handles 120,000 passengers on a busy day but recently has had up to 160,000.

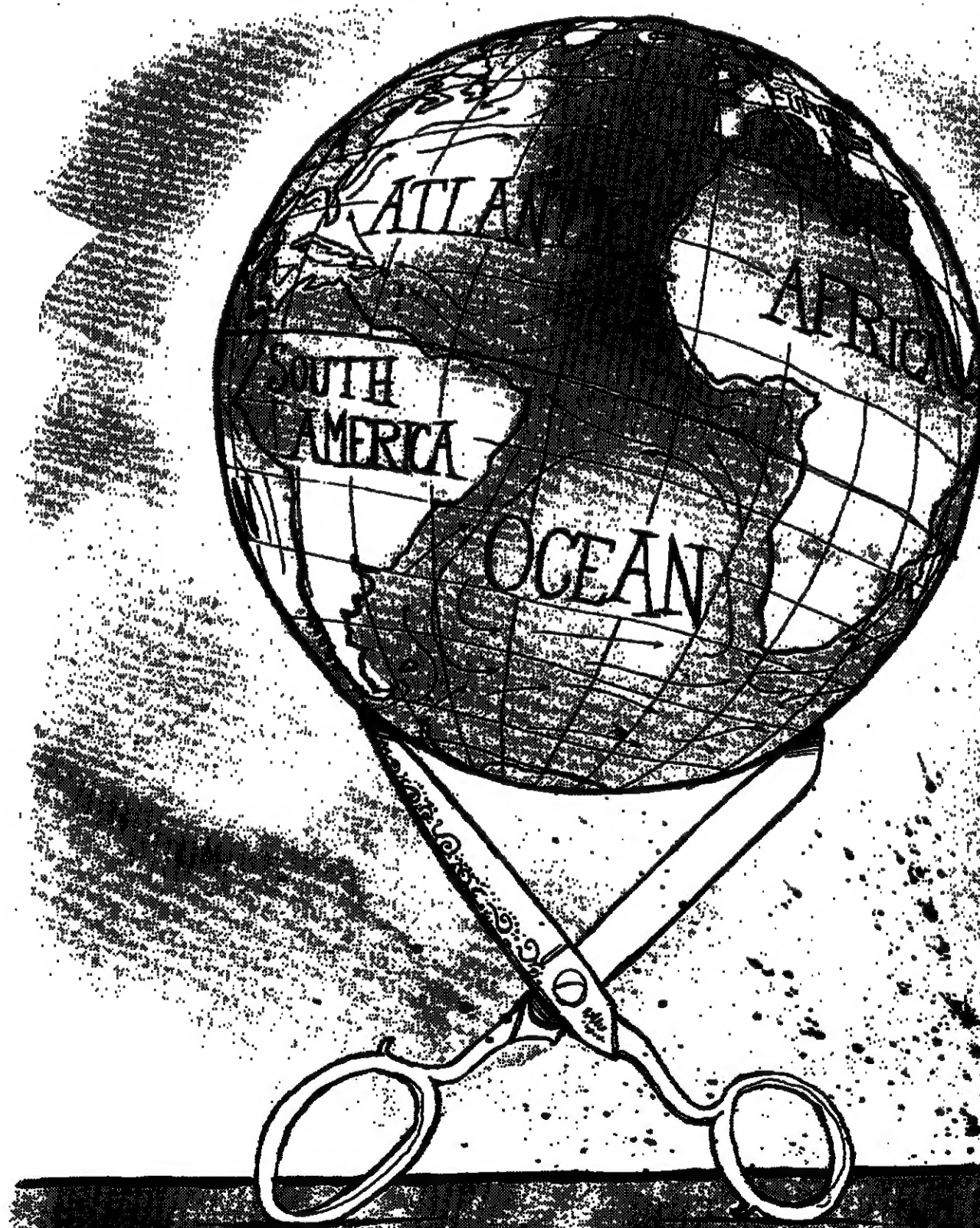
New security procedures, to match departing passengers with each piece of luggage and to screen every bag as it is put into the hold, came into force on August 1.

BA said: "We are taking on an additional 150 baggage handlers to help, installing new equipment as fast as we can and having people ready to rush to any problem area."

□ Britain's seven main airports handled 10.2 million passengers last month, up 1 per cent on July 1996 and highest monthly figure since

Travel, page 36

Over the last year BT has cut the cost of calls to every country in the world.



The cost of reaching some destinations is now 40% less than a year ago. Join BT's PremierLine and Friends & Family schemes and you can save an extra 25% on top.

For information on BT's discounts call 24 hour **Freefone 0800 003 800**.

The cost of calling keeps on falling **BT**

PremierLine is suitable for customers spending more than £45 per quarter on calls and costs £6 per quarter. Excludes BT public payphone and BT Chargecard calls. Friends & Family is not available with the Light User scheme.

25 اكتوبر 1997

Pupils desert traditional subjects

Fears of poor marks and career rivalry are boosting applied courses, reports John O'Leary, Education Editor

TEENAGERS are flooding into applied subjects such as business studies and sports science at the expense of traditional academic A levels, the national breakdown of this year's results shows.

While subjects such as mathematics, physics and economics recorded a modest increase in pupils or even a decline, general studies and a number of newer courses, such as media studies, boomed. Sport and physical education attracted almost a third more candidates than last year.

A 13 per cent rise in the overall pass rate was also concentrated in the non-traditional subjects. The proportion of high grades rose sharply in business studies and physical education.

The total number sitting A level failed to keep pace with

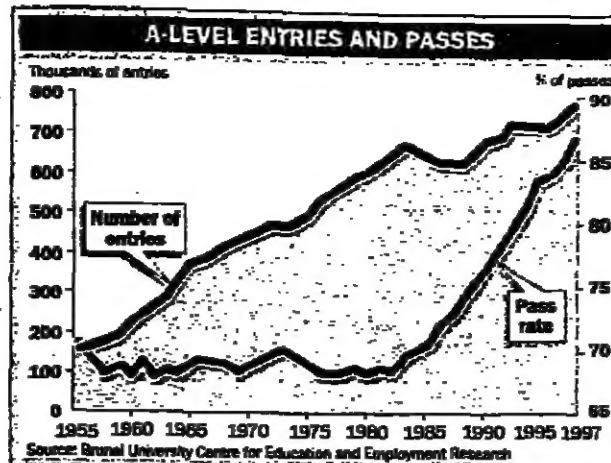
the rise in the 18-year-old population. Although the 776,115 entries represented a 52 per cent increase on last year, the age group taking most of the examinations was 8.6 per cent larger.

Kathleen Tattersall, representing the examination boards, said more students appeared to have been attracted to GNVQ courses, which are now more widely available. "We cannot be sure at this stage whether they are taking more vocational courses or fewer examinations altogether, but the figures show that students recognise A level as a passport to higher education or employment."

Ms Tattersall said she hoped this year's candidates would be spared the annual

controversy over A-level standards. "Candidates can be proud of their success in a tough and rigorous examination. The results are a clear reflection of their attainment and of the boards' maintenance of high standards in the interests of students and the educational system."

Professor Alan Smithers, who heads Brunel University's Centre for Education and Employment Research, said the pass rise reflected a continuing change in the function of A level, which had become a "badge of achievement" as much as a selection tool for higher education. The rise in pass rate from 68 per cent in 1982 to 87 per cent this year would produce a 100 per cent success rate within ten years if



the current rate of progress continued. Professor Smithers said: "The question is whether

A level will continue to serve the needs of the top research universities, which need to identify the most talented ap-

plicants. There must be a possibility that they will decide it does not, and will bring in something that does the job for them."

The 16 per cent of entries attracting A grades was unchanged from last year, with the next grades accounting for most of the increase in the pass rate. More than 55 per cent of entries reached the top three grades, compared with 53.8 per cent in 1996.

As in previous years, the proportion of top grades varied widely between subjects. In mathematics, for example, more than a quarter of candidates were awarded A grades, but fewer than one in nine reached the same mark in law.

Biology, with almost 9 per cent more candidates, was

among the few traditional subjects to see the increase in entries outpace the growth in the number of 18-year-olds. General studies, which saw a 10 per cent increase in candidates in 1996, recorded 15 per cent more entries this summer — the biggest increase of any subject. Business studies was close behind, with a 14.6 per cent rise.

Professor Smithers said that teenagers were avoiding traditional subjects in which they feared they might score poorly. "They are going for subjects that interest them, like sport, but as a nation we do need students in subjects like physics and French."

Ms Tattersall said, however, that the changes showed that students were thinking

ahead to their likely careers. "They are moving out of economics and into business studies, for example, because they like the applied nature of the courses. This is not devaluing A level in any way."

Entries for AS-level examinations increased by 6.6 per cent, after an 11 per cent rise in 1996. Biology, general studies, mathematics and psychology accounted for most of the increase. The overall pass rate declined slightly. The course, which was introduced to provide more breadth to sixth-form study, is expected to be revamped in 1999.

Fewer than 10 per cent of the 62,000 AS-level entries reached the top grade. In a number of subjects, including chemistry, computing and media studies, fewer than one candidate in 20 received an A grade.

Thousands in dilemma over cost of gap year

Those who did not plan ahead will lose out, reports Mark Henderson

STUDENTS planning a gap year before university to gain work experience, travel or earn money, face a doubly tense time as A-level results drop on their doormats today. Not only will they discover whether their grades are good enough for a university place but they must also decide whether to continue with plans for a year off.

The Government announced yesterday that all 19,000 students who applied through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service to start university in 1998, before the deadline last December, will be exempt from the £1,000 course fees which come in next year. But the estimated 50,000 who did not plan so carefully ahead will have to pay the fees if they continue with plans to take a year off.

Russell Goldman, 18, from Ilford, east London, is reconsidering his plans to go to university after discovering he will have to pay tuition fees. He had originally applied to study law, but decided against that as a career and declined his offers, intending to reapply

for business degrees after his A-level results. He has arranged to spend six months working for Marks & Spencer during his year out.

"I may decide against going to university, particularly if my results do not go as well as predicted," Mr Goldman said. "I have a great opportunity to start work with a top firm, and there is every chance I could get something permanent there. There is little point paying to do a degree if it offers me less than a job."

Another alternative was to go through the clearing system to secure a place before tuition fees come in, he said. "On balance, I will probably still take the year out, but if I do very well I would have to consider trying to get a good place through clearing. I don't want to leave college up to my eyes in debt."

Marks & Spencer takes 40 schoolleavers with A levels or GNVQs each year on a six-month paid work placement. The teenagers are assigned to a store, where they spend time in different departments in a managerial role. Successful students are guaranteed an in-



Dean Chapman, who has arranged to work in a bakery's engineering department before university next year

terview for a permanent job, whether or not they go on to university.

David Hormigo, 18, from Reading, had originally intended to apply for a university place after his A level results came out today. He decided to delay his application to give him more time to consider what he wanted to do.

After hearing that he will have to pay tuition fees if he

starts in 1998, he has deferred his university plans still further. "I want to work for a few years, to build up some cash before going to university as a mature student, a few years down the line," he said. "I'm already working at an outdoor shop, and I will be working for the Royal Mail at nights too."

In January, David plans to go on an expedition to Nepal for five months. He still intends to go to the university eventually despite the announcement on tuition fees.

"I still don't regret waiting to apply, and I won't go for clearing as I still don't know what to do," he said. "There is no point going to do a course I am not happy with."

Dean Chapman, 18, from Ollerton, Nottinghamshire, has an offer to read mechanical engineering at Coventry,

depending on his results. He will be spending a year working for the Riverside Bakery in Nottingham, which is owned by Northern Foods, as part of the Year in Industry scheme. Under this scheme, gap-year students are placed with businesses for a year, gaining valuable work experience. Mr Chapman will be working in the bakery's engineering department, helping with the installation of equipment.

"I am getting a year's paid work and lots of experience that will stand me in good stead later on. It seems people are going to miss out on opportunities like this for financial reasons in future. That's wrong."

Leading article, page 19



David Hormigo: he has deferred university

Helping students who don't make the grade

Beryl Dixon, a college adviser, describes her tactics

EVERY August I get the same nightmare. I am sitting an examination, and the paper is not only impossibly hard, it is on a subject I have not studied. If that's my nightmare, goodness knows what makes the students.

It is as hard as ever to see a machine 18-year-old fighting back tears. As the envelopes are opened, everyone involved — students, parents, teachers and advisers — is tense. How can we help them? By being as supportive as possible. By being there when they collect the results.

I pick up a supply of tissues and head for college. We don't believe in putting lists on a noticeboard. Students are given their results in person by volunteer members of staff.

The unfortunate are passed to me and an adviser from the careers service. We commandeer offices and phones, and encourage the near-misses to contact their universities. Often, they get an immediate answer. Sometimes they must wait. Many a grade or two down are accepted. (Tissues are not just for the unsuccessful. Last year one girl was in floods of tears. "Oh dear," I began. "No, they're taking me," she sobbed.)

Then we make appointments to discuss strategy with the ones who, as far as we can tell, will need to consider alternatives. Should they go through clearing? Resit? Look for work? Only they can decide. We point out pros and

cons, and discourage hasty decisions. We make sure they know how to use sources of vacancy information.

In the past, I rang admissions tutors on behalf of applicants. Now students are encouraged to make contact. They may need pushing. We have staff available if a reference is needed.

There are inevitable disappointments — some seem most unfair — for students

Her father was disgusted. His colleagues boasted about their children, but he couldn't

who are rejected by popular institutions that can afford to insist on AAB, despite an ABB. Then there are the students (and parents) who cannot accept their results.

Sometimes persistence pays. We had a case where nobody could believe the low grade awarded to a particular student. She was rejected. I phoned. The admissions tutor sounded weary. I was about the fourth that day. A teaching colleague stated that he was prepared to stake his reputation on this one: he had

never pleaded a special case before. He wrote to that effect. It was not going to work. The course was full. She could phone the following week, however, in case a place became vacant. Finally, someone dropped out and she was reluctantly accepted. My colleague's reputation was ultimately saved when her remark moved her up two grades.

There are wonderfully supportive parents and, occasionally, the less supportive ones. Also last year, a girl cried on my shoulder and said her father was disgusted with her: all of his colleagues were boasting about their children's results and he could not join in.

What can parents do if the results are disappointing?

Encourage students to phone universities. Tell them that admissions staff are human. Many are parents themselves and they know how stressful a time this is.

If you can, take time off and be available to act as chauffeur to open days and interviews.

Tell them it is not the end of the world! There are plenty of successful people who did not make their first choice of course or career.

Beryl Dixon is careers and higher education adviser at Cricklade College, Andover.

1997 A-LEVEL RESULTS (1996 results in brackets)									
Subject	A	B	C	D	E	N	No sat	% of total	% of no sat
Art and Design subjects	20.8 (19.4)	41.2 (39.4)	65.5 (63.4)	84.7 (82.2)	94.9 (93.7)	98.8 (98.5)	35,289 (33,782)	4.5 (4.6)	4.5
Biology	14.6 (13.8)	34.2 (32.5)	53.3 (51.7)	71.0 (69.8)	85.6 (84.4)	94.4 (93.7)	58,534 (51,094)	7.3 (7.0)	7.3
Business Studies	7.6 (7.7)	26.7 (23.1)	50.2 (44.9)	71.4 (65.6)	86.2 (82.2)	94.9 (91.9)	33,359 (29,100)	4.3 (3.9)	4.3
Chemistry	20.7 (19.8)	40.7 (39.1)	60.6 (58.1)	79.5 (76.1)	94.9 (91.1)	98.8 (94.1)	42,458 (40,456)	5.5 (5.5)	5.5
Classical subjects	24.7 (24.9)	46.5 (46.5)	68.6 (68.9)	82.7 (82.8)	91.8 (91.1)	98.4 (96.1)	8,451 (7,345)	0.8 (1.0)	0.8
Communication Studies	12.2 (11.5)	30.8 (27.7)	48.5 (44.7)	65.6 (61.7)	80.4 (77.7)	89.7 (88.1)	4,785 (5,077)	0.6 (0.7)	0.6
Computing	9.7 (10.5)	22.6 (23.4)	40.6 (41.9)	60.4 (60.9)	77.6 (77.8)	88.8 (89.0)	12,149 (10,687)	1.8 (1.4)	1.8
Economics	16.5 (15.0)	33.8 (31.1)	52.5 (49.2)	70.5 (66.9)	82.8 (81.1)	91.5 (91.1)	20,879 (24,580)	2.7 (3.3)	2.7
English	14.3 (14.5)	33.2 (33.9)	55.9 (55.7)	75.9 (75.8)	91.1 (91.1)	97.3 (97.3)	86,827 (86,827)	12.1 (12.0)	12.1
Expressive Arts	10.2 (10.1)	28.9 (28.9)	50.8 (49.8)	72.5 (70.4)	87.7 (86.0)	94.9 (94.5)	10,882 (9,619)	1.4 (1.3)	1.4
French	20.2 (20.9)	40.1 (38.9)	59.7 (58.2)	78.4 (76.5)	88.5 (86.0)	96.4 (95.9)	25,916 (27,400)	3.3 (3.7)	3.3
General Studies	13.8 (14.0)	30.0 (29.2)	48.8 (48.4)	68.4 (68.9)	84.1 (84.1)	93.5 (93.5)	84,114 (83,454)	9.4 (8.6)	9.4
Geography	12.0 (13.8)	34.0 (31.9)	57.2 (50.9)	76.6 (69.6)	89.9 (83.4)	96.8 (92.0)	43,841 (42,879)	5.6 (5.8)	5.6
German	23.9 (23.6)	42.8 (41.9)	60.6 (60.6)	77.4 (77.8)	89.2 (89.6)	95.7 (96.3)	10,561 (10,719)	1.4 (1.5)	1.4
History	14.7 (14.5)	33.9 (31.8)	54.5 (52.7)	73.2 (71.9)	88.5 (86.9)	93.9 (93.8)	42,547 (43,355)	5.5 (5.9)	5.5
Home Economics	9.6 (10.8)	26.7 (29.2)	48.5 (51.3)	70.9 (72.4)	85.9 (88.6)	94.1 (94.1)	2,632 (2,632)	0.4 (0.4)	0.4
Law	11.4 (10.8)	23.7 (22.9)	40.5 (38.5)	57.4 (56.1)	73.0 (71.5)	84.1 (83.0)	11,550 (11,882)	1.5 (1.6)	1.5
Mathematics	27.0 (28.7)	47.2 (46.0)	64.3 (63.0)	78.3 (77.1)	88.7 (88.0)	94.8 (94.4)	68,142 (67,442)	8.0 (8.1)	8.0
Media/Film/TV Studies	10.8 (10.6)	28.2 (28.3)	58.5 (57.5)	80.8 (82.3)	93.5 (94.4)	97.8 (98.2)	11,517 (8,883)	1.5 (0.9)	1.5
Music	19.2 (19.3)	40.0 (38.7)	64.0 (63.0)	82.6 (82.0)	93.6 (93.5)	98.1 (98.4)	6,916 (6,518)	0.9 (0.9)	0.9
Other Modern Languages	30.4 (29.4)	54.2 (51.5)	71.3 (70.3)	83.9 (82.9)	90.9 (91.3)	95.0 (95.7)	5,601 (5,431)	0.7 (0.7)	0.7
Physics	21.5 (20.6)	42.8 (39.7)	61.2 (57.6)	76.5 (73.1)	87.8 (85.9)	96.0 (94.2)	33,508 (32,801)	4.3 (4.4)	4.3
Political Studies	13.6 (14.6)	36.9 (35.9)	58.8 (57.3)	78.0 (75.9)	88.8 (86.3)	94.2 (93.9)	10,827 (11,292)	1.4 (1.5)	1.4
Psychology	11.0 (11.2)	28.4 (28.1)	47.8 (48.4)	68.2 (69.3)	80.8 (80.8)	90.2 (90.2)	27,209 (23,877)	3.5 (3.2)	3.5
Religious Studies	14.1 (14.3)	33.1 (31.4)	57.0 (57.7)	77.4 (77.5)	89.9 (89.7)	95.8 (95.8)	9,261 (9,053)	1.2 (1.2)	1.2
Science	11.4 (11.0)	26.8 (28.4)	48.4 (47.2)	68.6 (68.6)	85.3 (84.9)	94.6 (93.9)	5,621 (5,141)	0.7 (0.7)	0.7
Sociology	11.0 (10.9)	27.1 (26.0)	43.4 (42.4)	60.3 (59.9)	75.9 (74.8)	85.7 (84.2)	30,139 (28,871)	3.9 (3.7)	3.9
Spanish	24.2 (23.8)	46.3 (45.8)	65.2 (64.8)	81.0 (79.8)	90.4 (90.2)	95.7 (95.6)	5,826 (5,232)	0.7 (0.7)	0.7
Sport/PE Studies	8.7 (8.7)	22.3 (20.1)	44.0 (42.7)	69.6 (68.6)	88.4 (88.6)	98.6 (98.6)	13,102 (9,732)	1.7 (1.3)	1.7
Technology subjects	12.8 (12.4)	27.5 (26.9)	52.2 (50.6)	74.9 (73.5)	88.7 (88.3)	96.8 (96.2)	11,840 (11,081)	1.5 (1.5)	1.5
Welsh	18.6 (17.1)	43.2 (41.2)	66.9 (67.7)	84.4 (85.9)	96.7 (96.2)	99.5 (99.2)	967 (974)	0.1 (0.1)	0.1
All Other Subjects	12.5 (12.5)	29.9 (30.2)	47.8 (45.8)	64.3 (62.0)	77.9 (75.7)	85.8 (85.0)	9,095 (9,934)	1.2 (1.3)	1.2
Total	16.0 (16.0)	34.9 (34.0)	55.2 (53.8)	73.7 (72.1)	87.1 (85.8)	94.5 (93.6)	776,115 (739,163)	100.0 (100.0)	100.0

Figures are cumulative percentages, rounded, so that subject totals may not add up to 100.

Another rise in pass rates, but the critics have been silenced

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

PUNDITS' carping over A-level standards, which so infuriates teachers and parents on results day, was strangely subdued this year despite another significant rise in pass rates.

The change of Government has robbed some of the most vocal critics of their platform, and the same message is no longer newsworthy. Whatever the reason, analysis of the results took second place to the prospects for university entry.

In some respects, however, this is a watershed year for the A level, which deserves closer scrutiny. Almost a third of the candidates took modular A levels — twice the number in 1996 — and the impact is clearly visible in the pattern of results.

Studies have shown that the building-block approach to A level has no effect on the proportion of top grades, but it does cut the failure rate and boosts the numbers in the middle categories. That is precisely what happened: there was no increase in A grades, but the overall pass rate improved as the proportion of Bs and Cs rose.

There is no mystery about what accounts for the trend. Students who can see from their early modular tests that they are going to fail simply do not register their results, and the ability to retake modules allows strugglers to make modest improvements.

Candidates still have to reach the same standard, so there should be no lowering of

quality. Indeed, by setting tests in the first year of A-level study, modular courses may be more demanding. The chief doubt remains over the degree to which piecemeal testing fails to leave students with a rounded view of their subject.

Such questions will loom large in the Government's review of A levels. Baroness Blackstone makes clear in today's *Times* that the examination itself is not under threat, but there will still be important changes to the sixth-form curriculum before the end of the decade. Conservative ministers were planning to tighten up the rules on modular courses to ensure a single standard: today's results can only encourage their successors to do likewise.

The results posted in schools and colleges today include the first modular courses in geography, business studies, economics and politics. Courses with terminal examinations are now in a minority in English, mathematics, chemistry and physics. The trend is unlikely to be reversed by a Government keen to hit ambitious qualifications targets as well as encouraging an enthusiasm for education.

Modular courses will help with both: few students who experience them would go back to the traditional ways. If the status of A level is to be preserved, however, there cannot be one rule for the old guard and one for the new.

Tessa Blackstone, page 18

AA Home Insurance



"It felt like buying the same shirt as my mate but paying less"

Enjoy calling AA Home Insurance

0800 444 777

or visit your nearest AA shop

It costs less than you think

Registered Office: North Road, Farnley Road, Birmingham, B27 8YU. Registered No. 211421. England. Subject to acceptance by underwriters. Specimen policies are available on request. Automobile Association Insurance Services Ltd is an independent intermediary governed by the Act of 1996. To help us continually improve customer service, claims may be monitored or recorded.

The temporary wood village that put down roots

THE village of wooden houses put up in 1917 was supposed to last only a few years. But 80 years later, the homes are still in excellent condition with not a single woodworm in sight.

Now the residents of Austin Village at Longbridge, Birmingham, have won a seven-year campaign for conservation status for their homes. The 199 cedarwood bungalows will thus remain a slice of British housing heritage. Residents must now ask Birmingham City Council before they put up a satellite dish or add a conservatory.

Austin Village was built by the car pioneer Herbert Austin so that his workers could live close to the factory in Longbridge, which in 1917 was producing war munitions.

George Drywood, a spokesman for the Austin Village Preservation Society, said: "We started campaigning in 1990, and then set up the society a few years later to add weight to our cause. It has

Herbert Austin's bungalows for car workers were not meant to last.

Now they are to be preserved

taken this long for Birmingham City Council's bureaucracy to do something about it. We were just worried about the future of the village. We knew how special these bungalows are, but we wanted to conserve them so that no one else could get their hands on some 80-year-old wooden bungalows."

Austin ordered the bungalows from American makers in Bay City, Michigan, and they were shipped in kit form. Mr Drywood said: "They were ready to assemble with nails

and screws included, like a Meccano kit. The wood didn't even need to be cut." Each bungalow had three bedrooms, a kitchen, bathroom, lounge, dining room. They also had an inside toilet and central heating when they were built.

Mr Drywood said: "They are still practically as good as the day they were put up. The homes never get woodworm because cedarwood is quite oily, and because the homes are looked after."

"They are extremely warm in winter and cool in summer - that is the beauty of wood. The wood is entirely knot-free. The manufacturers were so sure of this that they offered a dollar for every knot found. We didn't find one."

He said the bungalows were considered to be temporary homes when first erected. "Then the council gave them a five-year licence. In 1924, they gave them a 15-year licence. They then decided that if they



George Drywood, of the Austin Village Preservation Society, outside his cedarwood bungalow at Longbridge, one of the 199 put up in 1917

were still standing they had to be permanent dwellings."

The new conservation status, which was backed by 129 of the 193 householders, means the bungalows can not be altered without planning permission. Edna Henson, 78,

said she would never swap her wooden house. "The bungalows are easy to look after. We just paint them once every five years."

"The outer walls take all the roof weight so the interior walls can be moved around.

Many people have converted their homes into two-bedroomed flats and extended the lounge for that reason."

"I am really pleased about the new status. We don't want people spoiling the look of the village, because this is a

special area. And most people are keen to retain the bungalows' original identity."

A Victorian tin church which has become a much-loved landmark in the village of Thrupp, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, has been

saved from demolition. Planners have refused permission for a housing development that would have meant the end of the 108-year-old blue-painted prefabricated shack. The listed building was deconsecrated in the 1960s.



MEMBERS' INFORMATION

WE'VE ALWAYS ASKED YOU WHAT YOU WANT. WHY SHOULD WE CHANGE NOW?

Dear Members and Customers,

You may already know that the Building Society has announced plans for the transfer of Birmingham Midshires to be acquired by The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, one of the UK's premier financial services institutions. The plans involve Birmingham Midshires becoming a new division of The Royal Bank of Scotland's retail banking business.

Although it is expected that members will not be asked to vote on the plan until 1998, on behalf of your board, we wanted to inform you as early as possible of the main features of the proposed transaction.

The terms on which the consideration would be distributed will be determined by the Birmingham Midshires board, having regard to the provisions of the building societies legislation, and the consideration is expected to be in the form of preference shares in The Royal Bank of Scotland plc and perhaps cash to certain members. However, no decision has yet been taken on the nature of the distribution scheme.

Serving Your Needs

Birmingham Midshires has won many national accolades for its commitment to customer care and last year won the Unilever/Management Today Service Excellence Award. The Society has always prided itself on listening to your feedback and reacting to your needs whenever we can. Over the years you - the members and customers - have often told the Society, through our regular surveys, that you want the Society to offer a wider range of products and services.

The Way Forward

Birmingham Midshires' board has recently undertaken a major strategic review of the Society's options in light of the increasing pace of change within the retail financial services industry. The board of Birmingham Midshires has concluded that it can best maximise the Society's potential and develop the business to add long-term value for members, customers and staff as part of The Royal Bank of Scotland. Birmingham Midshires' board is unanimous that the terms of the proposed transfer are fair and reasonable and in the best interests of all Birmingham Midshires' key stakeholders - members, customers and staff.

The board of Birmingham Midshires believes that joining The Royal Bank of Scotland will allow the business to fill strategic gaps in the products and distribution channels it can offer, enabling it to accelerate its strategy of becoming a broadly-based provider of personal financial products, adding those of The Royal Bank of Scotland group. The board of Birmingham Midshires also perceives new opportunities for the business by making its product range available through The Royal Bank of Scotland's branch network.

The board of Birmingham Midshires believes that the availability to the business of the greater capital resources of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group will improve the quality of its funding base and permit more rapid growth than would be the case if Birmingham Midshires remained an independent organisation. As part of The Royal Bank of Scotland, the Birmingham Midshires business would benefit from the greater freedom to achieve the optimal mix between wholesale

and retail lending and funds, the lower costs at which The Royal Bank of Scotland can place debt finance.

Birmingham Midshires has long focused on providing very high levels of customer service. The board of Birmingham Midshires believes that becoming part of The Royal Bank of Scotland will enable the Birmingham Midshires business to improve customer satisfaction.

The Birmingham Midshires board wants to recognise separately the ownership rights of Birmingham Midshires' members. The acquisition will give members the opportunity to realise the value of their stake in the Society.

The board of Birmingham Midshires believes that a union with The Royal Bank of Scotland will create a vibrant business well positioned to exploit opportunities in the United Kingdom market for personal financial services. Birmingham Midshires expects its business to benefit from enhanced business performance, increased income and improved efficiency, leading to greater value for customers. This combination would allow Birmingham Midshires' business to join a "strong and respected bank." Birmingham Midshires' board believes that the divisional structure will allow the business to meet its strategic objectives more effectively while maintaining its strong culture and values founded on excellent customer care, innovation and strength.

Next Steps

Obviously there is a great deal to accomplish in the coming months. We will be writing to all members and customers individually in the next few weeks with more information and the next steps you need to take.

In the meantime, Birmingham Midshires members are advised to avoid taking any action which could unduly affect their membership status. We are committed to keeping you fully informed of developments. However, due to legal constraints, Birmingham Midshires staff are unable to give any information or advice about these proposals. A members' Helpline has been established on Freephone 0800 068 1818 if you would like to know more.

We expect to be able to put our proposals to members in the first half of next year and, subject to approval and certain other conditions, including the contents of the Building Societies Commission and the Bank of England, the transaction is expected to be completed in the second half of 1998.

Thank you for your continued support of Birmingham Midshires and we look forward to expanding your expectations in the future.

Yours sincerely

John Leighfield
Chairman

Mike Jackson
Chief Executive

P.S. We're sorry. This is a very important and complex transaction. It is communicating it to you as early as we can so that you can be fully informed and make a decision in the best interests of your future.

Birmingham Midshires Building Society, PO Box 88, Poundford Business Park, Walsworth Road, Wolverhampton WV9 5JZ.



Birmingham Midshires Building Society

"We'll exceed your expectations"

We'll be writing to all our members over the next few weeks with more details. Meanwhile, sit tight and wait for more exciting news. However, for more up to date information please call our members' Helpline on 0800 068 1818.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Briton is killed in Alps crash

A British teacher was killed, and her husband and their teenage son injured when their car was crushed by a lorry in the French Alps.

Elizabeth McMahon, 50, of Bromington, Powys, died on Monday after the lorry slid on a wet road near Vizille. Her husband Patrick, 52, was being treated for multiple fractures yesterday in a hospital in Grenoble, with their son Owen, who was not badly hurt. The couple's two growing-up children were not on the trip.

Drought payout

Six more water companies, Anglian, Essex and Suffolk, Mid Southern, Northumbrian, Severn Trent, and Thames, agreed to pay compensation to customers if supplies are cut during a drought.

Hanover appeal

Colin Martin, who is trying to raise the *Hanover*, an 18th-century ship that sank off Cornwall laden with gold, has won leave in the High Court to challenge a police decision that has halted the project.

Estate agent hurt

An estate agent suffered serious head injuries when a timber ceiling collapsed. Catherine Arthur, 25, was showing a couple around an apartment in a dockside complex in Cardiff Bay.

Father jailed

Brian Simcock, 39, of Wigan, who killed three pet rabbits with a hammer because his children would not look after them properly, was jailed for a month. He admitted causing unnecessary suffering.

Flying bear back

Arthur Brooker, 5, has his teddy back, five days after tying it to six helium balloons. The bear was found by a farmer 20 miles from Arthur's home near Bristol. His reward was some sweets.

Driver to sue after car gets the hump

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SOLICITOR is planning to sue the Highways Agency after the exhaust on his car was wrecked by a speed bump.

Tony Burton, 47, was forced to pay £160 for repairs to his Ford RS2000 after the scrape with the speed bump near his home in Denton, Manchester. He failed to get compensation from Tameside council or the Department of Transport and now intends to take the agency to court for causing an obstruction on the Queen's Highway.

Mr Burton received more than 120 letters from other motorists when he advertised for victims of car damage to come forward. He claims traffic-calming legislation is being interpreted too literally by local councils and is angering motorists, instead of calming them.

"Speed bumps are causing frustration to motorists all over Britain," he said. "Any car which has a relatively low suspension risks serious damage from a standard local authority speed bump, yet a four-wheel-drive vehicle can fly over one at 70mph."

He said that the powers given to local authorities by the Highways Department were being abused and he wanted to challenge them in the courts.

A spokesman for the Highways Agency said: "Speed bumps are the responsibility of the local authority and are only installed on residential roads, not on trunk roads. The whole idea is that they slow traffic down, but you do get cases where motorists go over them too fast and cause damage."

A spokesman for Tameside council said: "Where speed bumps are introduced, it is normally in response to public pressure. We have 300 speed bumps on our waiting list, those installed in Tameside are in accordance with guidelines laid down by the Department of the Environment."

Frisbee takes the sting out of rays

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

KILLER whales have never been noted as tidy eaters. But playing frisbee with stingrays up to 6ft across sets a new standard in food-thriving.

The whales have been observed tossing the stingrays to and fro by Ingrid Visser, a research student at the University of Adelaide. She believes they do it to reposition the ray so they can eat it without being stung.

Ms Visser spent two years watching killer whales in the waters off northern New Zealand. She observed 19 whales, mostly male, pursue and eat 55 stingrays. On one occasion two whales ate 18 stingrays in a six-hour binge.

Normally one killer whale would dive to the seabed to find a ray and then signal the others, she told *New Scientist*. "The whale then surfaces with the ray still alive, flapping its mouth." Sometimes a

whale will flip a ray out of the water before tossing it around with at least one other whale, she says. The rays make strenuous efforts to escape. "They leap on to the beach or hide under rocks," she says, "or will try to hide between the planks of a wharf."

John Ford, director of research and conservation at Vancouver Aquarium in Canada, said: "The killer whale never ceases to amaze." The animal is a very innovative eater. Vanessa Williams, of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society in Bath, said: "Common sense would suggest that they're trying to position the stingrays so they can swallow them without being stung."

"It's also very likely that they are teaching their young the 'technique' of catching prey. It's just like a mother cat training her kittens."

New Beetle drives into controversy

Book dents image of 'people's car'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE Volkswagen Beetle which came into life as Hitler's "people's car" before becoming an essential part of the postwar German landscape, is to make a comeback next year. About 50,000 Beetles have already ordered the new model although it will not be presented until the Detroit Motor Show in five months' time.

The car will keep its insect-like form, though it will be somewhat rounder and will resemble more closely the prototypes built by the team of Ferdinand Porsche in the 1930s rather than the workaday 1950s version. Naturally the car will be well advanced, with airbags, an economic 1.9-litre turbo diesel and a technical affinity to the new Golf. The new Beetle, says the company, "demonstrates the lifestyle of its future owners — unconventional, youthful and emotional".

The key to the success of the new car will be the American market which took the old Beetle to its heart. Various Hollywood films, including the forgettable *Herbie*, were made about the German car, which was regarded as somehow more lovable, and certainly more Californian, than the heavier products of Detroit's factories. But the Beetle's popularity in the US

might take a denting if more were known about its origins. A comprehensive historical study by Professor Hans Mommsen, entitled *The Volkswagen Factory and the Workers of the Third Reich*, showed, in devastating detail, how the company used slave labour in its campaign to meet Hitler's demand for a car within the financial reach of the broad masses.

Borrowing ideas from Henry Ford, the Germans constructed the factory city of Wolfsburg which lived and breathed Volkswagen. A nearby concentration camp provided a steady flow of slave labourers from Western and Eastern Europe.

Soviet labourers at the factory were given a daily ration of potatoes and turnips, 150 grammes of bread, a ladle of thin soup and a portion of margarine — better than concentration camp rations but inadequate for workers who began their shift at 6.30am and worked through until 6pm, especially as the short lunchbreak meant that many were never able to reach the front of the queue to receive their food.

The Mommsen book, though it came out last year, has yet to be translated into English and there is speculation that the company is less



Hitler inspects the original "people's car" in 1938 with the designer, Ferdinand Porsche, on his left; below, the new four-seat coupe due to go on sale next spring

than eager for the history to be published in the US next year to coincide with the launch of the new Beetle. Translation of the 1,057-page book will take some time.

This is a highly sensitive time for German companies as they move to the United States market. Daimler, which is anxious to sell its

small Mercedes to the Americans, has also been rather slow in translating a company-sponsored history of slave labour in the car works.

Degussa, the company which melted down Jewish gold, is becoming more active in the US and recently announced that it had engaged an independent historian to

examine its archives. The fear is of private lawsuits from wartime survivors, but above all about a loss of image. Volkswagen is thus keen to present the Beetle not so much as the descendant of the Nazi era "Strength through joy" campaign but rather as the answer to student dreams, much as it was in the 1960s.



French warplane hit by budget cut

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

DASSAULT Aviation's Rafale fighter-bomber will be the first casualty of the French Socialist Government's decision to cut its defence budget next year to offset spending on job creation while still meeting the 3 per cent Maastricht criteria for a single European currency.

The Government, Dassault's only customer for the Rafale, intends to scale back its £1.6 million order for 48 of the warplanes over the next five years, and may extend it over a longer period. An earlier order for 13 of the aircraft will stand.

A spokesman for the Defence Ministry said the "cutting back does not mean cutting out" — an indication that the Government probably intends to maintain at least the naval version of the warplane, the only French fighter-bomber available to equip the *Charles de Gaulle*, France's new aircraft carrier.

The Rafale, which has now reached the production stage, is France's independent equivalent of the Eurofighter being manufactured by a British and German-led consortium.

France's large defence budget was a natural target for cuts. However, the Government was hindered by the phasing out of conscription in favour of a professional volunteer army, leaving a reduction in military procurement as its only option.

Rome and Athens trade insults on Games venue

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

IN A latter-day reflection of the struggle for domination of the ancient world, Athens and Rome yesterday each tried to prove that the other was an unsuitable venue for the Olympic Games in 2004. "Rome and Athens trade insults" was the headline in *La Repubblica*.

The row, which began with an outspoken attack on Athens' qualifications by Primo Nebiolo, the noted Italian sports official, lawyer and former athlete, is seen as a sign of the increasingly heated atmosphere as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) prepares to make its final decision on the 2004 Games on September 5.

Rome and Athens are neck and neck in the last lap, with Cape Town and Buenos Aires also on the short list. Stockholm is the fifth remaining contender, but its chances are thought to have received a setback when an explosion destroyed part of the Stockholm Olympic stadium at the end of last week.

Signor Nebiolo, who heads the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) and is also on the IOC, raised Greek hackles by making scathing remarks about Athens' handling of the world athletics championship which ended in Greece last Sunday. The event was widely seen as a test of Greece's ability to stage

the Olympic Games in seven years' time. The Games, revived in 1896, had their origins in ancient Greece 30 centuries ago, and Athens was bitterly disappointed not to be chosen to host the centenary Games in 1996, which went to Atlanta.

Signor Nebiolo, a former Italian athletics champion known for his sharp tongue and dominant personality, told Greek television after attending the athletics championship that Greek organisation had been "mediocre" at best. Any success was largely due to the IAAF rather than the hosts, he said. Signor Nebiolo said many of the events had been poorly attended and overpriced, with near-empty stadiums. "I suppose the people of Athens all head-



Nebiolo: attack on Greece's stability

ed for the seaside instead," he said. "But you Greeks have the sea all year round. Surely you can forget the sea for a week." In an even sharper dig at Greek pride, he said Greece was burdened by political and economic problems over-nesting the Maastricht criteria for the European single currency and had high unemployment and an unstable currency.

Theodoros Pangalos, the Greek Foreign Minister — also known for his outspoken manner and Mediterranean temperament — retorted that Signor Nebiolo had broken "a very basic rule: that although politicians are allowed to speak about sport, sports officials are not allowed to speak about politics".

Italy, Mr Pangalos pointed out, had had to mobilise its armed forces to try to suppress the "terrifying problem" of the Mafia, a reference to the use of troops to patrol both Palermo and Naples.

"But I would not dream of saying that the Mafia characterises Italy, and that Rome therefore does not deserve the Games," he said. "If Rome does not win, it will simply be because Athens was better."

A country such as Italy which had 35 governments since the Second World War was in no position to accuse Greece of instability, he added.

French love of l'amour is wilting

BY SUSAN BELL

THE popular myth of the Latin lover's legendary libido has been shattered. A survey claims that 52 per cent of French people would be unconcerned by long spells of chastity, while 49 per cent said they often — or sometimes — had no desire to make love.

The indifference to all things sexual was compounded by figures showing that 44 per cent of men surveyed admitted to a flagging sex drive.

French women fared even worse, with 53 per cent saying their libido had decreased. Thirty eight per cent of those polled said they were making love less than they used to.

Men seemed more aware of the problem than women, and long lapses in sexual activity were also a greater concern for males. Only 9 per cent said they were having more sex than they used to.

The survey, to be published today in the weekly news magazine *L'Evenement du Jeudi*, was conducted with 960 people aged 18 or over. It does not explain the apparent cooling ardour — nor does the birth rate, which has increased by 23,000 in two years.

Under 40? No Pension?

If you haven't got a pension already fixed up, the moment to do something about it is now.

Start by calling PensionStore. Telephone for an introductory talk without commitment and without pressure. If you do decide to go ahead you'll have a state of the art low cost pension exactly right for the 21st Century.

0345 65 00 00

Calls charged at your BT local rate. Lines open 8am - 10pm seven days a week. Advice is given only on PensionStore products. Calls are recorded.

PensionStore

Brought to you by Liberty International Personal Limited
Regulated by the Financial Prudential Authority
A member of the Liberty International Personal Marketing Group

FREE monitor worth over £500



THE NEW IMPROVED DESKPRO NOW OFFERS MORE RELIABILITY, POWER AND, FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY, A

FREE MONITOR WORTH OVER £500*

THE UK'S NO. 1 DESKTOP PC RANGE** ALSO

COMES EQUIPPED WITH INTELLIGENT MANAGEABILITY FEATURES SUCH AS SMART HARD DRIVE AND A RANGE OF PENTIUM® PROCESSORS WITH MMX™ TECHNOLOGY. FOR A CLOSER LOOK, VISIT US AT www.compaq.co.uk OR CALL US TODAY ON

0845 270 4270

Quoting reference number: 978FM15

Local call rate

COMPAQ DESKPRO SYSTEMS CHEATERS NEVER WIN

*Subject to availability. Offer applicable on certain models only. Full terms and conditions available on request. UK Typical Buying Price for V70TCO Colour Monitor available with Deskpro models £510 ex VAT (£599.25 inc VAT) based on Pentium® Pro and Pentium® II processors. Other Monitors in the range vary in price and are worth less than £500. **Source: IDC European Research Group Q1 1997 Unit Shipments. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation.

Sombre India in no mood to celebrate

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

AT midnight tonight India will mark 50 years of freedom, bowing its head in sorrow rather than raising it in celebration. A gloom hangs over Delhi and although the nation is taking a four-day holiday, this is the main sign that anything is happening.

There will be un-spectacular parades and a flurry of midnight speeches, none of which will touch the eloquence of Jawaharlal Nehru's "tryst with destiny" speech, India's City of Destiny Address, defining the soul of a nation, his remarks filled with anguish because freedom brought with it the tragedy of partition.

That same sense of sadness hangs over India like the monsoon clouds. Nobody feels like a party. If anybody in the subcontinent should celebrate it is Pakistan, for whom partition was a victory, severing half of India's Muslims from the other half with a line drawn on a map at the rate of 30 miles a day by a man who had never been to India. He dismembered a country with 5,000 years of history, separating friends and making them enemies in three years.

But not even Pakistan feels glad: the subcontinent believes it has squandered too many dreams. As midnight nears, the 120 million Muslims of India, almost as many as on the other side, are silent as



50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

6 The 120 million Indian Muslims are silent as always — the people left behind

always, a vulnerable group — the people left behind.

Few would choose to go there now: their leaders, such as this fissiparous community has any, reassure them that they are better off in secular India, for all the prejudices they endure and the massacres they have suffered at the hands of Hindu fanatics. Pakistan holds no allure for Indian Muslims any more: the Islamic homeland is a failure.

Senior veterans still travel from Pakistan to India for reunions at their former military academies in Dehra Dun and beyond, enabling them to meet friends they grew up with, trained with, and fought against in war. They embrace without rancour the last gen-

eration of Indians and Pakistanis who know each other. South Asia does not have cross-border enmities as Europe has them.

The wars were short-lived border battles, not enough to poison people against each other. Beyond the political divide there survives a sense of fraternity and shared experience, at least between Hindu and Muslim, even among the post-partition generations.

Sir Cyril Radcliffe, the jurist whose pen divided the subcontinent, sweated for 36 days through the pre-monsoon humidity in a bungalow in the grounds of the Viceroy's palace. "Down comes the Union Jack on Friday morning and up goes — for the moment I rather forget what, but it has a spinning wheel or a spider's web in the middle. Nobody in India will love me," he wrote.

That wheel was Ashoka's wheel — the *dharma chakra*, wheel of the cosmic order, emblazoned on the shields and chariots of the founder of the Hindu empire. Mahatma Gandhi's loyalists wanted his spinning wheel to occupy the flag instead, but it was rejected as a symbol of backwardness. "I refuse to salute a flag which carries such a message," he said of India's new flag, an emblem of war at the centre.

Britain dabbled in India for more than three centuries, but the blueprint for dividing the subcontinent was completed in four hours and accepted by the Cabinet in five minutes.

"The responsibility for this mad decision," wrote Mountbatten, the last Viceroy, should be placed "squarely on Indian shoulders in the eyes of the world, for one day they will bitterly regret the decision they are about to make".

Flag offence: A school principal in western India has been jailed for a year and fined about £10 for disrespecting the flag. Manishankar Narayan Rawale, 56, hoisted the flag at his school near Nagpur in January to mark Republic Day, but failed to lower it in the evening, a violation of the flag code. (AFP)



Nehru with Lady Mountbatten on independence day when he made his speech on India's "tryst with destiny"

Pakistan votes to shoot terrorists on sight

Islamabad: Pakistan's National Assembly (lower house) passed an anti-terrorism Bill yesterday which gives the Government sweeping new security powers, including the right for police to shoot suspects on sight.

The opposition Pakistan People's Party, led by Benazir Bhutto, walked out of the Assembly in protest.

The Bill is an attempt to stop a wave of killings that have shaken Pakistan in the run-up to the celebration of 50 years of independence.

More than 225 people have been killed this year in a feud involving rival wings of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (United National Movement), an ethnic party in Karachi, while a vendetta between militant Sunni and Shia Muslim factions has cost about 140 lives.

The Bill, sure to become law thanks to the large majority enjoyed by Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, in the Senate and the National Assembly, would let the federal or provincial governments call in the armed forces to help civilian authori-

ties. It authorises policemen or soldiers to fire on anyone committing, or believed to be about to commit, a "terrorist" offence.

The security forces would also be allowed to arrest terrorist suspects without a warrant and to search premises, and seize weapons or anything else likely to be used in a terrorist offence, also without a warrant. The Bill proposes the death penalty for any terrorist whose action has resulted in a death, and a sentence of between seven years and life imprisonment otherwise. (Reuters)

Political leaders squabble for the spotlight

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN
IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN will celebrate the anniversary of its creation in an appropriate manner. A row between President Leghari and Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, has led to the cancellation of a joint session of parliament today.

Traditionally the joint session is addressed by the President, but the Prime Minister wanted to be at centre stage on this occasion. As the President would not give up his prerogative, the Government cancelled the session. Now Mr Sharif will make an address on national television and radio at midnight.

Benazir Bhutto, the Opposition leader, who is on a private visit to London, will not attend the official ceremony and there appears little enthusiasm among ordinary Pakistanis. The mood is one of disillusionment. An opinion poll by the country's largest-circulation newspaper *Jang* showed that 90 per cent of Pakistanis do not have any faith in their leaders.

Pakistan today is one of the poorest of nations with one of the highest illiteracy rates. For more than half its 50 years of independence it has been ruled by military dictatorship. The country is back on a democratic track but the roots of democracy are shallow.

Created in the name of religion, Pakistan is faced with a sectarian war which is tearing the country apart. The sectarian violence on the streets of Karachi and Punjab province is symptomatic of a deep-rooted and serious malaise. This week the federal government sent forces to control the violence.

The experience of the past nine years, since the return of democracy, has been that political leaders lack vision and courage. Successive elected governments have further weakened national institutions. The most important question at the moment is what lies ahead for Pakistan. The country stands at a crossroads and on the brink of social disaster.

Leading article, page 19



Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy, left, and Sir Cyril Radcliffe, who divided the subcontinent

BUY NOW
PAY 20 UNTIL 1998

Computer World
PC World
PC World
PC World

233MHz MMX!
"The Perfect System for Students"

AMD K6
MMX ENHANCED PROCESSOR

NEW Lotus SmartSuite 97

£999 + VAT
£1173.83 inc. VAT
£27/month

A 233MHz MMX PC with Multimedia, Internet and PC2TV for only £999 + VAT! PLUS, if you order on or before Saturday 23rd August you get a FREE Hard Disk upgrade to 3.2Gb!

Whether you are starting A-Levels or going off to University, this system has the power and features that you need - Both Now and in the Future.

MESH Titan 233 PCTV

- 233MHz K6 with MMX Technology
- Latest Intel Vx PCI Motherboard
- 512Kb Pipeline Burst Mode Cache
- 32 Mbyte Ultra Fast EDO RAM
- 2.5 Gb Fast E-IDE Disk Drive
- 2Mb ATI 3D Graphics Accelerator with PC to TV facility
- Superb 15" SVGA Colour Monitor
- True 16 Speed CD ROM
- Sound Blaster V16 Plug & Play Sound
- 50W (PMP) Powered Speakers
- Windows 95 keyboard & Serial Mouse
- Latest version of MS Windows 95
- FREE Lifetime Hotline Technical Support
- 33,600 Fax Modem with Voice Messaging & Pipex Internet access
- NEW Lotus SmartSuite 97
- MESH Family CD Bundle with 3D Games
- Scarf PagePlus 4 DTP Software

MESH COMPUTERS PLC

MESH House, Apsley Way, London NW2 7HF
Tel: 0181 452 1111
Fax: 0181 208 4493
E-mail: sales@meshpc.co.uk
www.meshpc.co.uk

TO ORDER TEL: 0181 452 1111 or 07000 MESHPC

NO SURCHARGE ON CREDIT CARDS

James put the weekly shop on his GM Card.

We helped him carry it home.

miles better

Here's food for thought. A credit card that turns your everyday purchases into a mouth-watering saving of up to £2,500 on a new Vauxhall. Sounds tasty? Then call 0345 462 777 now for further details. Or complete and return the form below.

Find out how you can save up to £2,500 on your next car. Call 0345 462 777 now.

Alternatively, complete this form and return it to: The GM Card, FREEPOST, SEA 2853, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey KT2 6BR

Name: _____ Surname: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Home telephone number: _____

When you receive your GM Card, please return it to: The GM Card, FREEPOST, SEA 2853, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey KT2 6BR

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2
TODAY



BUSINESS

The US sisterhood with its sights on British high-flyers
PAGE 27



TRAVEL NEWS

Hot and cold breaks — but hang on to your bags
PAGE 37



SPORT

Elvis lookalikes keeping the show on the road
PAGES 38-44

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PAGES 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR: Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY AUGUST 14 1997

Jobless total at 17-year low Bank says rate rises on hold

BY ADAM JONES

UNEMPLOYMENT fell to its lowest level in 17 years in July, with fewer students thought to be joining the dole queue after leaving education. The City, fearing more inflationary signs, was reassured by accompanying data showing the underlying annual increase in national earnings to be static in June at 4.25 per cent.

The 50,000 seasonally adjusted fall in the monthly jobless total, to 1.55 million, includes a large reduction in the number of unemployed people due to be targeted by the Government's "New Deal", part of Welfare to Work.

Under the campaign, 18-24 year olds who have been out of work for more than six months, as well as all those unemployed for more than two years, will be eased into work through temporarily subsidised jobs, voluntary work or study.

In the second quarter of 1997, the number seeking these incentives fell by 67,300 to 437,700.

July is traditionally a time when the ranks of the jobless are swelled by students leaving education. Last month, the flow was significantly lower than July 1996.

Baroness Blackstone, the Education and Employment Minister, said this confirmed anecdotal evidence that young people are finding it easier to get jobs.

The Office for National Statistics, which compiles the unemployment figures, also pointed out that July 1997 was the first time students had come across the jobseeker's allowance, which requires claimants to meet more demanding tests to prove they are looking for a job.

The statistics are presented on the same basis as the previous Government's unemployment figures. It is thought that the Government will soon make a decision on the future basis for calculation.

The seasonally adjusted number of vacancies advertised at jobscentres rose by 1,500 in July to 284,400, the highest since measurements began in 1980. The ONS, however, said this includes a 40,000 error that exaggerates the total.

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY

THE Bank of England confirmed yesterday that interest rates are unlikely to change in the next few months, after four consecutive quarter-point rises since the Bank was given control of UK monetary policy.

The Bank said in its quarterly *Inflation Report* that the quarter-point increase in rates last Thursday had brought monetary policy to the position required to meet the Government's inflation target. The monetary policy committee had accordingly decided that a "pause for reflection" was now appropriate before it took any further action either to increase or reduce rates.

Mervyn King, the newly appointed deputy governor, said that the length of this pause and the direction of the next move in interest rates would depend on the events in the coming months, but the *Inflation Report* said that the risks to the economic outlook remained biased in the direction of higher inflation and Mr King suggested that the next move in interest rates was more likely to be up than down.

The minutes of July's MPC meeting, also published yesterday, showed that all members of the committee agreed on a quarter-point increase, and Mr King suggested that the latest MPC meeting, the minutes of which will be published in September, was unanimous as well.

Mr King said that future monetary decisions would be swayed by new evidence on five areas of uncertainty: European monetary union and its effect on sterling; the impact of the strong pound on trade and output; the evidence of inflationary pressure or lack of it in the labour market; the impact of building society windfalls on consumption and the developments in money supply figures.

The *Inflation Report* said the strength of sterling caused an "acute dilemma" for monetary policy at present. The "large rise" in sterling's exchange rate was now leading to "severe pressure" on manufacturers and other businesses exposed to international competition.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	5003.6	(-72.2)
Yield	3.24%	
FTSE All share	2348.96	(-27.43)
Nikkei	19088.80	(-50.51)
Dow Jones	7842.72	(-18.12)
S&P Composite	923.88	(-2.85)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	96 3/4%	(97 1/2%)
Yield	6.85%	(6.58%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Libor long gdt	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)
Future (Sept)	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)

STERLING		
New York	1.5808	(1.5790)
London	1.5803	(1.5785)
DM	2.8944	(2.8934)
FF	9.7589	(9.9101)
Sfr	2.3825	(2.4078)
Yen	162.52	(163.00)
S index	100.7	(101.7)

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$19.90	(\$19.95)

GOLD		
London close	\$287.86	(\$285.98)
* denotes midday trading price		

Market fall

The FTSE 100 Index fell sharply, sliding back through the 5,000 level during mid-afternoon trading before closing 72.2 points down at 5,003.6. The pound fell sharply after comments by the Bank of England on interest rates and inflation. Sterling fell 4.24 pence to close at DM2.8962. The stock market was volatile after a number of economic indicators were published in America. Markets, page 26

Midshires to pay windfall of £600

BY ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 12 million customers of the Birmingham Midshires Building Society will receive windfall bonuses worth an average of between £600 and £650 each after the agreed £630 million bid by Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS).

The takeover, which should be completed by the second half of next year, was agreed after nine months of talks.

RBS has clinched a deal that will double the size of its mortgage book to £12 billion and boost the Scottish bank's branch outlets by 115 to 775. When the purchase is completed RBS will become the UK's tenth-largest mortgage lender.

George Mathewson, group chief executive of RBS, which also owns Direct Line, the telephone insurer, gave a clear indication that the Birmingham Midshires deal would not be the last acquisition.

He said: "This does not rule out a much larger acquisition in the future. But any deal has to be at the right price and give value to both partners."

The proposed deal values the building society at between £605 million and £630 million. The final figure will be decided by a pre-agreed formula that will be activated only after RBS's advisers have completed a due diligence review of the Birmingham Midshires books.

RBS, which was advised by Robert Fleming, said it expects to finance the transaction without calling on shareholders for additional funds. In preparation for the deal the bank has agreed to place 33.4 million new shares with Scottish Widows, its joint venture partner, at 601.2p a share. Dr Mathewson said the extra £200 million would be used for investment purposes and to strengthen the balance sheet.

The RBS deal represents a remarkable turnaround in the fortunes of Birmingham Midshires, which was advised by JP Morgan. When Mike Jackson became chief executive of the building society in 1990 its finances were precarious and its loan book was considered to be in such a state that a rescue bid by a stronger society was a serious possibility. Since then pre-tax profits have risen from £9.5 million to £70.7 million.

Mr Jackson's refusal to rule out a conversion from mutual to banking status, a joint merger and then flotation or a deal such as yesterday's made the society a prime target for carpetbaggers.

In the past year 300,000 more customers joined than might have been expected and late last month Birmingham Midshires stopped opening new savings accounts.

Mr Jackson, who has not yet decided whether to accept a senior board position at RBS, said the proposed purchase was "the best deal in town". RBS shares closed at 612p, down 13 1/2 p on the day.



George Mathewson, left, and Mike Jackson are creating Britain's tenth-largest mortgage lender through the deal

Yorkshire Water rejects £10 plan

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

YORKSHIRE WATER has run into fresh controversy for not joining a drought compensation scheme designed to prevent the poor service it was criticised for two years ago.

Two thirds of the industry have agreed to have their licences amended by the regulator so that they must pay out £10 a day if drought interrupts water supplies. But Yorkshire said it does not think licence changes should be authorised by anything but statute.

A spokesman for Ofwat said: "The whole idea of this scheme was to avoid the situation that Yorkshire got itself into so it is surprising that Yorkshire will not join."

The scheme was drafted last year to strengthen the financial incentives for water companies to provide adequate service following Yorkshire's drought crisis in 1995.

The refusal by Yorkshire, Southern and seven smaller companies, to endorse licence changes means that their customers will have no automatic right for compensation. Drought is not covered under existing guaranteed standards so claims could be lengthy and possibly fruitless.

Last year Yorkshire was fined £42 million by Ian Byatt, the water regulator, for poor performance in 1995.

Travel feels benefit of windfalls

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SPENDING of windfalls is beginning to take off in the travel industry, with Airtours yesterday reporting strong early bookings for next year's holidays.

Winter bookings are 25 per cent ahead of last year, while the early launch of summer 1998 brochures has led to a 42 per cent rise. Windfall payments from demutualising building societies and the Norwich Union have put up to £30 billion into circulation in recent months.

Cuts in the number of holidays available for this summer, after the industry's disastrous summer of 1995, have paid off for Airtours. Pre-tax profit has risen 24 per cent to £24.1 million in the three months to June 30.

Commentary, page 25
City Diary, page 27

Actuaries press for urgent review of pension schemes

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

A LEADING group of pension fund advisers has called for an urgent review of all UK pension schemes after tax changes announced in the Budget.

The Institute of Actuaries says it is now nearly impossible to advise on pensions as the changes affect whether individuals should remain in the state earnings related pension or contract out.

The institute examined the effects of the Budget ban on pension funds claiming back the 20 per cent advance corporation tax (ACT) paid on company dividends. Nigel Masters, chairman of the ACT working party, said: "The change could mean that some people should never be contracted out of Serps."

The institute said that actuaries who look after more than

£500 billion of pension assets should immediately review the value, solvency and liabilities of all pension schemes.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, prompted protests over the ACT change. The institute said that the move could cost as much as £75 billion. The costs will be incurred because the valuations of many of the country's biggest pension schemes have been cut. Future revenue from company dividends will also be substantially less. According to the actuaries, as much as 15 per cent has been knocked off the value of schemes and investment returns have been cut by 0.5 per cent a year for the average pension scheme.

Companies will have to make substantial cash injections into their schemes to

ensure that liabilities can be met. Earlier this week, Glynned said it would have to invest an extra £3 million to top up its pension fund.

Compensation arrangements for those mis-sold a personal pension will also need to be reviewed. Already some, such as the Prudential, are increasing the amount set aside to resolve the matter.

Duncan Ferguson, Institute of Actuaries president, said: "The profession must act prudently now to protect the public's pension, savings and insurance investments."

The actuaries also want the Government to review the minimum funding requirement (MFR) for pension schemes. The MFR affects the value of transfers from company schemes.

Warburg recovery boosts Swiss Bank

BY ROBERT MILLER

SBC WARBURG, the London investment bank that was on its knees two years ago, has become the biggest contributor to the profits of Swiss Bank Corporation, overtaking the traditional private banking business for the first time.

Profits from investment banking at SBC, which earned handsome bonuses for successful traders and executives, also outstripped those of asset management through SBC Brinson and retail banking. The domestic bank portfolio, however, was particularly hard hit by

the devaluation of the Swiss franc and Switzerland's ongoing recession.

SBC Warburg has reasserted itself as a powerful player in the London markets, scoring notable successes including the defence of the Co-operative Wholesale Society from a bid led by Andrew Regan.

SBC's overall group profit jumped 84 per cent to £564 million of which SBC Warburg's contribution rose 60 per cent to £287 million. The £297 million rise in personnel expenses to more than £1 billion was partly because of the currency effect but mainly a result

of "higher performance-related compensation on the back of the strong results", SBC said. The banking group's return on equity rose to 19.4 per cent in the first half of the year compared with 10.5 per cent in the same period last year.

City analysts said the SBC Warburg figures were a vindication of SBC's strategy of carving out a place in the investment banking world. They compared the Swiss bank's figures with those of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell (DMG), the investment banking arm of Deutsche Bank, announced last

month. DMG, which yesterday completed a \$15 billion (£950 million) floating rate note transaction for ICI, the largest such deal, reported profits of £288 million despite the problems in its fund management business.

Georges Blum, SBC chairman, warned the market and shareholders, who include Martin Eber, the maverick Swiss corporate financier who has a 2 per cent stake, that results in the second half would not equal those in the first, "especially if financial markets fail to sustain their current high levels and transaction volumes fall".

"We've fixed our mortgage payments until 2001. Have you?"



Fact: Interest rates have risen twice in the last two months and could go higher... To find out the BEST FIXED RATE available from Mortgage Intelligence, the UK's largest group of mortgage brokers, call FREE anytime on:

0500-10-10-33

MORTGAGE INTELLIGENCE

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DON'T KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

TM 14/07/97

Laura Ashley to halt growth in US

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LAURA ASHLEY, the beleaguered retailer, is expected to announce that it is to halt its expansion in the US, the cornerstone of the turnaround strategy devised by Ann Iverson, its American chief executive.

The company is also expected to accompany a trading update, due next week, with news of further job cuts at its Welsh factories.

The company has been closing smaller stores and opening at larger sites in the US in the past two years. Analysts believe that poor trading in the new stores has persuaded the company to abandon all new openings apart from those to which it is already firmly committed.

Laura Ashley is expected to report an interim pre-tax loss of up to £4 million next month, compared with a £5.2 million profit a year ago. It is taking the unusual step of issuing a trading statement before its results after rumours of problems.

Laura Ashley employs about 800 people in rural Wales. Some 200 jobs were cut last year, and more are likely to go as garment production shifts to the Far East, with its cheaper labour. About 20 per cent of Laura Ashley garments are made in Wales. Furniture, fabric and wallpaper production, 80 per cent of which is done in Wales, is less likely to move abroad.

Sir Bernard Ashley, widower of the company's founder and owner of a 35 per cent stake, has traditionally defended the six Welsh factories. But the share price fall from 21p last October to 6p yesterday is believed to have persuaded him it was no longer possible to keep as much production in Wales.

The atmosphere at the company is believed to be extremely tense as Sir Bernard and his son Nick, a designer, have begun to spend a lot of time working there after the shock resignation of Basha Cohen, the design director, last month.

Most analysts are expecting to lower their profit forecasts for the year next week. Although Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the company's brokers, have moved their forecast down to £8 million, other analysts are still on about £10 million.

Ma Iverson has been under pressure since delivering a profit warning in April. She said that prices would have to be slashed to clear stock after setting overoptimistic sales targets. Soon after, it emerged that she was paid more than £1 million last year.



GAMES WORKSHOP, the toy soldiers producer, is marching its miniature army overseas in an ambitious £6 million expansion plan that should double its number of worldwide stores within four years. The company, which operates 150 outlets worldwide, plans to open a further 30 this year and

37 next year after resolving not to make any acquisitions and use its cash pile purely for organic growth. Tom Kirby, chief executive, said its growth is being fed by "second-childhood adults", who account for 25 per cent of sales. He said: "The secret of the appeal is that these are miniatures, not dolls,

and using them is a hobby." The enduring appeal of the soldiers helped the company to lift pre-tax profits to £11.1 million (£8.57 million) for the year to May 31, with earnings rising to 22.6p (18.2p). The dividend rises to 8.4p (6.8p), with a final 5.8p due on October 31. The shares rose 6½p to 575p. *Tempus*, page 26

Burford nets nearly £24m on sale of Grantchester stake

By CHRIS AYRES

BURFORD, the ambitious property company led by Nick Leslau and Nigel Wray, yesterday pocketed nearly £24 million when it sold its 15 per cent stake in Grantchester, the retail warehouse developer.

The 17.4 million shares were sold at 135p each to a client of BZW, the broker for both companies. The sale heightened speculation that Burford is building up funds to complete the purchase of a third

luxury hotel site in London for its joint venture with Ian Schrager, the American entrepreneur.

Mr Schrager made his name in the Seventies with Studio 54, the New York nightclub whose regulars included Bianca Jagger and Andy Warhol and was featured in *Le Freak*, a song by Chic. He now owns a string of successful hotels and can boast Madonna as a partner in one of his ventures, the Delano in Miami. Burford

plans to open four hotels with Mr Schrager in central London locations. A total of £32 million has reportedly been spent on a grade-two listed property off Oxford Street and a property in Covent Garden.

The hotels will be decorated by Philippe Starck, the designer. Burford hopes that both will be in business by the end of next year. Another two central London hotels will follow.

However, in spite of yesterday's speculation, Mr Leslau denied that the sale of Burford's stake in Grantchester had been orchestrated to raise funds for any specific project.

He said Grantchester was going extremely well, but it was essentially a property company and there was no point in owning a stake in a passive investment. "What we need to do is take that money and use it to make more money for our shareholders."

He also ruled out the possibility of any cash raised by the sale being ploughed into Trocadero, the company that owns the troubled Piccadilly entertainment complex of the same name.

Trocadero is not the only business interest of Mr Leslau and Mr Wray to underperform. The two were part of a consortium that rescued Nottingham Forest, then a Premiership football club, only for the team to start losing and be relegated to the Nationwide First Division.

Indonesia falls victim to Asian currency turmoil

By GEORGE SIVELL

INDONESIA became the latest victim of the Asian currency crisis as its central bank was forced to make a defensive interest rate rise yesterday to pull the rupiah back from its all-time low.

Currency turmoil has swept South-East Asia as fears emerge over the future growth prospects of the tiger economies, exacerbated by the present strength of the American dollar.

On Friday Indonesia cut short-term interest rates by 50 basis points but yesterday raised them by 100 basis points. Malaysia has just spent \$8.8 billion (£5.6 billion), to no avail, in supporting the ringgit, and Thailand is hammering out the details of a \$16 billion (£9.9 million)



Soros: blamed by Malaysia

IMF/pan-Asian support package. The Singapore dollar has come under pressure while the Philippine peso and Taiwan dollar have been weak.

Bank Indonesia was forced to step in after the rupiah shrugged off the rate rise and dropped to the lower limit of its 12 per cent trading band. At this point the central bank is pledged to support the rupiah.

The Malaysian Prime Minister has already blamed George Soros, the trader who forced the pound out of Europe, for the ringgit's woes. Dealers are ready for a fresh speculative attack and yesterday the ringgit closed at 2,775 to the US dollar, down from 2,765 the previous day.

Barclays staff ready for action over pay

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS BANK staff will begin industrial action, which will stop just short of a full-scale strike, next week over a new pay scheme.

Unifi, the Barclays staff union, said that from August 22 members will be asked to support an overtime ban, to stop to rule, and to withdraw their co-operation in any initiative to do with the bank's newly imposed pay and grading scheme. Last week Barclays unveiled an 8 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £1.4 billion.

The union said: "The forthcoming industrial action is the latest salvo fired by Barclays employees in their battle to

force the bank to modify its new pay scheme, in which the majority of staff are expected to suffer a freeze on salaries and pensions for the foreseeable future."

Paul Snowball, Unifi's general secretary, warned that bank customers would be "disadvantaged" in the industrial action. He said: "We are sorry for the inconvenience, however, service will only return to normal when Barclays comes to its senses and introduces some genuine modifications to this punishing pay regime."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Thomas Cook creates 400 jobs in Falkirk

MORE than 400 jobs are to be created in Falkirk by Scotland's booming telephone call-centre sector, it was announced yesterday. Thomas Cook, the travel company, is to establish an operation there to supplement the work of its existing call-centre in Peterborough, which itself employs 400. The centre, which will handle business for Thomas Cook Direct, its "book-by-phone" arm, will initially employ 150, but that figure is set to triple over five years, it said.

The firm said factors that swung its choice in favour of Falkirk from a short-list of five competing locations included the high quality of local labour, and the "impressive" commitment shown by local authorities and Forth Valley Enterprise. The new centre is due to be up and running by January 1. The firm said book-by-phone had accounted for more than 10 per cent of its total bookings this year, and this activity had grown "dramatically" since the Peterborough centre opened three years ago.

Rea Brothers advances

REA BROTHERS, the banking and financial services group, raised pre-tax profits 40 per cent to £1.4 million in the six months to June 30 on operating income up from £9.6 million to £11.1 million. Earnings rose from 1.62p to 1.96p out of which the interim dividend rises from 0.5p to 0.6p a share. Sir Hugh Cubitt, chairman, said: "Merchant banking has started the year extremely well and investment management continues to perform strongly. We have achieved the anticipated growth in group profitability during the first six months of 1997. By focusing on the provision of sophisticated, high-quality client services and seeking further operational efficiencies, we expect to maintain our momentum."

DuPont jobs for Derry

DUPONT, the chemical group, is to invest £78 million and create 100 new jobs at its Maydown plant in Londonderry. It has been offered selective financial assistance of £12.5 million by the industrial development board towards the investment costs. Marjorie Mowlem, the Northern Ireland Secretary, welcomed DuPont's confidence in the region and said that the investment would underpin 450 direct and support jobs in lycra production. The Maydown plant has an annual turnover exceeding £300 million and is one of Northern Ireland's largest exporters.

Culver agrees sale

CULVER HOLDINGS, the vehicle distribution group, has agreed to sell its travel insurance businesses to Financial Insurance Group Services, a subsidiary of GE Capital Services, for up to £4.75 million. Around £2.25 million is payable on completion, £1.75 million in January 1998, and a further £750,000 before April 1998, payment of which is subject to performance. The businesses Culver is disposing of are Worldcover Direct, Accident & General, Bowden & Co and Direct Insurance Products. Culver shares rose 3½p to 105p.

Rosebys lifts payout

ROSEBYS, the household textiles and soft furnishings group that bought Bensons Beds this year for £25 million, more than doubled pre-tax profits in the six months to June 30, from £1.51 million to £3.18 million. The group's turnover was up 74 per cent, from £46.1 million to £80.4 million, while earnings per share rose 55 per cent from 4p to 6.2p. An interim dividend of 3.1p (2.1p) will be paid on October 17. Sir Gordon Houston, the chairman, said the company's household focused businesses were performing well in the more buoyant market conditions.

SB picks Zeneca chief

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM has poached David U'Prichard from British rival Zeneca to replace George Poste as chairman of research and development for its pharmaceuticals business. Zeneca has filled the gap by promoting Richard Ault, its development director, to replace Dr U'Prichard as international research director of Zeneca Pharmaceuticals. Dr U'Prichard, 49, will join SB next month and will report to JP Garnier, who heads the group's drugs arm. Dr Poste has become SB's chief science and technology officer, a more strategic role looking at future technologies.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

In the Matter of N O R Engineering Co Ltd and in the Matter of the Companies Act 1985. Notice is hereby given that the Liquidator of the above named company, N O R Engineering Co Ltd, has been appointed by the Court and is now acting as Liquidator of the company. The Liquidator's office is at 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The Liquidator will be pleased to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company. The Liquidator will also be glad to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company. The Liquidator will also be glad to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company.

In the Matter of the Companies Act 1985. Notice is hereby given that the Liquidator of the above named company, N O R Engineering Co Ltd, has been appointed by the Court and is now acting as Liquidator of the company. The Liquidator's office is at 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The Liquidator will be pleased to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company. The Liquidator will also be glad to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company. The Liquidator will also be glad to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company.

In the Matter of the Companies Act 1985. Notice is hereby given that the Liquidator of the above named company, N O R Engineering Co Ltd, has been appointed by the Court and is now acting as Liquidator of the company. The Liquidator's office is at 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The Liquidator will be pleased to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company. The Liquidator will also be glad to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company. The Liquidator will also be glad to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company.

In the Matter of the Companies Act 1985. Notice is hereby given that the Liquidator of the above named company, N O R Engineering Co Ltd, has been appointed by the Court and is now acting as Liquidator of the company. The Liquidator's office is at 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The Liquidator will be pleased to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company. The Liquidator will also be glad to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company. The Liquidator will also be glad to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company.

In the Matter of the Companies Act 1985. Notice is hereby given that the Liquidator of the above named company, N O R Engineering Co Ltd, has been appointed by the Court and is now acting as Liquidator of the company. The Liquidator's office is at 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The Liquidator will be pleased to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company. The Liquidator will also be glad to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company. The Liquidator will also be glad to receive any information from the creditors of the company and will be glad to attend to any claims which may be made against the company.

Highbury slowed by loss-maker

HIGHBURY House Communications, a publisher of consumer and trade magazines, yesterday said that the poor results were partly due to losses at Trustcare, the advertising rental division, which has just been sold for £25,000 in cash. WV Publications and Exhibitions, and DVS Typocast, two recently acquired companies, are performing well, it said. The interim results are to be announced on September 8. The shares fell 1p to 7p.

TOURIST RATES	
Australia	£1.00
Belgium	£1.00
Canada	£1.00
Cyprus	£1.00
Denmark	£1.00
France	£1.00
Germany	£1.00
Greece	£1.00
Italy	£1.00
Japan	£1.00
Netherlands	£1.00
Portugal	£1.00
Spain	£1.00
Sweden	£1.00
Switzerland	£1.00
Turkey	£1.00
USA	£1.00

If you are looking for a safe & secure bond this is the one for you!

Scottish Legal Life's Growth Bond Offers

- Unlimited Growth Potential
- Guaranteed Return of Investment
- Loyalty Bonus on investments over £5000
- Easy Access to your Investment

This outstanding growth potential is available from Scottish Legal Life with the added benefit of a guaranteed return of investment at the end of five years. In addition, we also offer bonus units on the fifth anniversary. With an offer this good, it's worth acting now to get your copy of our leaflet and an application form. Remember, the Scottish Legal Life Growth Bond will make your money work harder for you.

It's available now and to find out more all you need to do to take advantage is telephone our Freephone number between 9am-6pm Monday-Friday

0800 77 99 88

alternatively contact your Independent Financial Adviser or fill in the coupon below, post it back to us and we will send you your free, easy to understand brochure and application form.

The value of your investment may fluctuate and is not guaranteed except on the Fifth Policy Anniversary.

SCOTTISH LEGAL LIFE
Established 1852

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Number of people in household, Adults: _____ Children: _____

Return freepost to (no stamp necessary): Scottish Legal Life Assurance Society Ltd, FREEPOST GW7932, Glasgow G2 7BR.

Scottish Legal Life Assurance Society Ltd is a company registered in Scotland. It is a member of the Scottish Legal Life Group, which is a member of the Financial Services Authority. The value of your investment may fluctuate and is not guaranteed except on the Fifth Policy Anniversary. The value of your investment may fluctuate and is not guaranteed except on the Fifth Policy Anniversary.

JPL/col/20

Economic miracles take longer



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Hard luck, carpetbaggers. If you failed to spot the attractions of the Birmingham Midshires building society. Our Weekend Money section highlighted its attractions to an expansionist bank, and fortune-hunting investors, back in October 1995.

If George Mathewson had pounced then, the price would certainly have been lower, but windfall collectors will appreciate the benefits of his delay. No doubt they will soon be dashing off to the travel agents to book an extra holiday or to the high street to splash out on a carpet or computer.

But this latest fuel to consumer spending is not likely to budge the Bank of England from its view that inflation is under control. Its confidence on that front was spelt out yesterday, and appears to have convinced the markets that interest rates really are on hold.

The phummeting pound will be greeted as great news for exporters, even if it is unfortunate for those carpetbaggers who choose to take a break overseas. So why should the stock market plunge so dramatically? Its performance is only explicable as a reaction by overseas investors to sterling's fall, a decision that they may not want to be so heavily weighted in the UK economy.

Yet the underlying news on the economy continues to tell a tale of strength, and not just on the

inflation front. For unemployment figures to have fallen to their lowest since 1990, without any increase in average earnings is an impressive achievement.

Optimists would have us believe that we have entered a new economic era. However, there are many who are wary of miracles.

They will be taking note of the strike threat now being issued at Barclays. Martin Taylor has already shaken up the staffing in the bank, but he has much further to go.

The battle that Bob Ayling is having to fight at British Airways is not unique to airlines. Industry is moving into a new era of global competitiveness in which the speed of change in working practices is having to move up several gears.

Technology makes that possible, but some employees will, inevitably, not enjoy the demands that come with it. It is one area in which journalists speak from experience, since our own industry was the advance guard for developments that are only now taking place in the wider world. Persuading staff to adopt new, flexible work practices is not easy, as Bob Ayling can testify.

And while the City has seen that average wages have not been rising, so have workers in local authorities and hospitals. We can expect to see some struggles ahead as the tighter employment market does encourage a degree of bravery in wage demands.

Economic Nirvana is not yet assured, and is unlikely to be achieved without a fight. The stock market will be right if it reflects that.

Banking on bancassurance

George Mathewson's latest move gives Royal Bank of Scotland the extra high street distribution it has been seeking ever since it failed to land the Cheltenham & Gloucester, beaten by the wily team of Sir Brian Pitman and Peter Ellwood at Lloyds.

The price is a full one, since the

Birmingham & Midshires has seen little organic growth in the last three years. Instead, it has swelled its loan book with a prolonged spree of purchasers, some of which may have brought it loans of questionable quality.

But the B&M also brings a core client base of the more moneyed sections of Midlands society, which is what Mr Mathewson wants as a target for other Royal Bank products.

The purchase will bring around one million extra clients into his list and he will waste no time in telling them just what Royal Bank has to offer.

Like his rivals, he wants to persuade customers to drop into a one-stop financial shop, whether they do it in person or by phone. At Lloyds TSB, Peter Ellwood reckons that his average customer has a total of six financial products, just two of them purchased from him. If he can persuade customers to be less promiscuous and pick up

maybe four from Lloyds, the effect on his profits would be formidable. The race is on to learn as much as possible about customers, their family background and possible financial requirements so that subtle selling will have them snapping up a new insurance policy almost before they realised they needed it.

He and Mathewson are not the only bankers to have worked this out, but they are well placed to make the idea of the bancassurer work.

Mr Mathewson has the advantage of owning Direct Line, a formidable operation that pioneered the art of telephone selling of insurance and transformed an industry. In the process, it made a fortune for Peter Wood. Mr Mathewson has never resented the rewards that Mr Wood made from his bright idea, nurtured under the Royal Bank umbrella. Instead, he has pointed out that few other bank-

ers would have been brave enough to back such a forceful individual.

This will put him in a good position to nurture the undoubted talents of Michael Jackson, the B&M chief executive who has done a splendid job of rescuing the society from near oblivion but whose reputation is not of the shrinking violet variety.

Will names choose shares over status?

So successful has been the rescue of Lloyd's of London that it is easy to forget just how close to collapse that City institution came. But insiders admit that, had just one United States judge been fool enough to rule in favour of litigious Americans who tried to block the crucial reconstruction, it would have been administering the fatal injection.

Yet despite that brush with death, the Lloyd's name has emerged virtually unscathed with customers. And, although they have seen gory evidence of the fact that underwriting can result in losses as well as profits, 10,000 individuals have opted to remain as Lloyd's names. What

motivates them to continue risking the demonstrated dangers of unlimited liability is unclear, but given an average age heading towards the pensionable, an element of habit may be partly responsible. Greedy optimism and snobbery may also come into the equation.

But a recent suggestion to names that they change the status of their involvement with Lloyd's attracted 1,400 requests for more information. This is not the first proposal for names to convert their involvement into a corporate scheme but it is the first that offers the attraction of a quoted investment.

The Conversion Investment Trust is the bright idea of Dawnay Day. It will be intriguing to see how many names are won over by the prospect of a chance to swap status for shares, and the option to quit Lloyd's when the time, or price, is right.

Britain's loss

WHEN Warburgs was sold to Swiss Bank Corporation the perceived wisdom in the City was that it would suffer. Clients and senior bankers flooded out the door. But the knee-jerk reaction was wrong. Sure, the SBC culture was much more brash, but marrying the superb O'Connor derivatives business to some pretty smart brains has created a world-class investment bank for London. Shame it isn't British any more.

BICC looks to sale of German loss-maker

By PAUL DURMAN

BICC, the cables group that owns the Balfour Beatty construction company, is believed to be looking at a sale of its loss-making German business, one of the key problems behind yesterday's disappointing results.

The group, whose shares have underperformed the market by 70 per cent in recent years, has already cut more than 1,300 staff from KWO Kabel, reducing it to what it believes is the minimum effective size of 700 employees. But these measures have not proved sufficient to escape a fall in German cable prices to 15 per cent below the US level BICC regards as the norm.

Alan Jones, chief executive, said that BICC was looking to reduce the group's exposure to Germany but would not discuss the possibility of a sale of all or part of the business. "We are obviously thinking hard about it (KWO)," he said.

KWO faces strong competition from Alcatel and Siemens, but Mr Jones believes that the German market has a "reasonable chance of stabilising" because of other efforts to reduce the oversupply of cable. BICC reported half-year

pre-tax profits down from £63 million to £55 million. Operating profits from BICC Cables, the European arm, fell from £51 million to £28 million. This understates the true extent of the deterioration in trading because the group has cut £40 million from its annual costs since last year.

The group's Italian business swung into heavy losses after Enel, the state-owned energy group, stopped buying cable in the run-up to privatisation. Mr Jones said this caused Italian sales of power cables to halve. BICC has agreed with the Italian Government to shed another 350 of its 1,200 staff.

Metal Manufacturers, the Australian cabling business, also disappointed with profits falling from £20 million to £14 million. BICC blamed weak construction and housing markets and a slowdown in telecommunications orders.

BICC's shares fell 7.5p to 162.5p, continuing their three-and-a-half year slide. Richard Dunne, of the broker Henderson Croftswaite, said: "Management credibility must be low. Shareholders who backed last year's rights issue must be rueful that they ever parted." BICC raised £170 million by issuing shares at 270p.

Mr Dunne added that BICC had previously said it had virtually completed the restructuring programme begun when Mr Jones joined in April 1995. He said there are also doubts about BICC's dividend, although the company maintained the interim payment at 4p a share. It will be paid on January 2.

Balfour Beatty, which accounts for almost half the group's six-month turnover of £2.2 billion, increased its profits from £1m to £15 million, mainly due to elimination of prior-year losses.

Much of the profit came from its rail maintenance and renewal business. Mr Jones said Balfour Beatty was still less than half way towards achieving 5 per cent margins on its UK business.

Tempus, page 26



Alan Jones, left, chief executive, and Ron Henderson, finance director of BICC, where half-year profits fell £8 million

Energy takes £112m hit on windfall tax

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE ENERGY GROUP, the Anglo-US power company whose £3.7 billion takeover by PacificCorp was sent to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, took a £112 million charge from the windfall tax for its subsidiary Eastern Electricity.

The group, which also comprises the US's largest coal business Peabody, detailed the bill in its figures for the three months to June 30. It also recorded a dip in operating profits. The profits slipped 2 per cent to £96 million because

of £20 million seasonal losses at its coal-fired power stations. The Energy Group bought the mid merit stations from National Power and PowerGen last summer. Mid merit means that they are not always called to operate at full capacity when demand is low.

The company has to wait until the end of November to hear whether the agreed bid from PacificCorp, which has now lapsed, will be allowed to proceed. The Energy Group spent £7 million on advisers' fees for the bid.

Ockham postpones Wise Speke float

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

OCKHAM HOLDINGS, the Lloyd's of London underwriter, has put on hold its plans to float Wise Speke, its stock-broking subsidiary, in order to build up the company.

Ockham pulled the floatation at the last minute in December amid stock market volatility. This would have given it a market capitalisation of around £13 million. Yesterday Lord Poole, Ockham chief executive, said the broker needed to be substantially bigger to have a successful entry on the stock market. He

ruled out acquisitions in the short term.

Wise Speke made £1.5 million pre-tax profit to June 30, above last year's £1.5 million which included £0.5 million from Dealwise, the execution-only business later sold.

A fall in interim pre-tax profits for Ockham from £11.4 million to £7.4 million belied the £5.5 million capital injection under the Equitas settlement last year. In real terms they rose £1.5 million.

An interim dividend of 1.5p (1p) is due on November 11.

Ex-carpenter sells hotels for £46m

By FRASER NELSON

RAY HORNEY, a former carpenter who set up the Saint James Beach Hotels group in Barbados, is to pocket £28 million, by agreeing to sell the company to a Guernsey investment fund for £46.4 million.

Elegant, set up by an unregulated fund managed by Cabot Square Capital, has tabled an agreed 200p per

share offer for the four hotels which Mr Horney bought after selling his electrical business 14 years ago.

Mr Horney, now 61, said he will use the money to set up another company which he intends to float on the stock market. He said: "There is no question of my retiring. I have brought two companies to the stock market, and it would be nice to do the same with a third."

He bought the hotels for £8 million

raised from selling Rayfit Supreme Holdings, a formerly quoted electrical retailing business which he had founded by hiring out washing machines in Sussex after giving up carpentry at the age of 20.

He said: "I bought them as real estate. They were in a terrible condition, and my original intention was to do them up and make some money selling them on. But after a while, I

realised that the hotel business was very similar to the retail business, so I stuck with it."

The company was brought to the market in 1994 at 120p a share, raising £10 million through placings.

Elegant is understood to have arranged contracts providing holiday accommodation for British Airways crew in the four Barbadian hotels. St James shares jumped 8p to 198p.

Dispute erupts over Cellnet billing contract

By ERIC REGULY

A SIMMERING contract dispute between Cellnet and AMS Management, an American information technology firm, erupted yesterday when AMS said it would cease working on a new billing system that was supposed to meet the mobile phone company's needs through the next decade.

Cellnet said AMS's billing system is a year behind schedule, "has hundreds of software bugs and does not produce bills". The company, which is owned 60 per cent by British Telecom and 40 per cent by Securicor, is to take a £40 million charge this year to cover the faulty system on top of the £25 million charge it took last year.

Cellnet said it has given AMS, based in Virginia, 30 days to either fix the software or present a plan on how it intends to fix it within a certain period. It is not ruling out legal action if neither condition is met. The company said: "Cellnet has given notice to AMS stating that it considers AMS in material breach of contract."

But AMS has no intention of doing any more work on the so-called Force billing system. It said it had been unable to reach agreement on the final aspects of the contract in spite of more than seven months of negotiations and believes it has fulfilled all of its contractual obligations to Cellnet.

Charles Rossotti, chairman of AMS, said: "We firmly believe that we have gone far beyond what was reasonably expected. Virtually every week, Cellnet changed what it wanted."

The withdrawal of AMS is the latest in a series of blows to Cellnet, the second-largest player in the industry.

In March, Howard Ford, the managing director who

was ultimately responsible for the AMS contract, left abruptly amid rumours that the billing system was proving a failure. Shortly afterwards, Cellnet revealed that it recruited only 12,000 customers in the first three months of the year, far below the levels announced by even its smallest rivals.

Cellnet said it would upgrade its old billing system if AMS failed to provide an acceptable solution.

Increase in hotel bookings lifts M&C

By ADAM JONES

MILLENNIUM & Copthorne Hotels (M&C) said pessimism over the central London hotel market was misguided as it announced strong growth yesterday. Pre-tax profits were boosted 53 per cent in the first half of the year, after a surge in occupancy and room rates.

The group, floated last year and controlled by Kwok Leng Beng, the Singaporean billionaire, was optimistic about its traditionally stronger second half, saying July showed good growth on 1996.

The rise in profits, and the associated 34 per cent increase in turnover to £95.3 million, is distorted by the fact that the group was floated only last spring. On an adjusted basis, profits were up 35 per cent and turnover 13 per cent. Occupancy rates in London rose from 78.9 to 82.5 per cent. Average room rates rose from £69.53 to £79.33.

From next month, the Gloucester, Bailey's Chelsea and Britannia hotels in London will be rebranded as Millennium hotels in an attempt to actively market the brand as a four-star presence in big cities.

An interim dividend of 2.8p per share, an increase from 0.7p, will be paid.

Tempus, page 26

Wherever you are in the world, Citibank goes with you. And we'll fly you to Paris to prove it.

Citibank offers a free flight to Paris for new customers. Call us anytime on 0800 00 88 00 or visit our website <http://www.citibank.co.uk>

Full terms and conditions available upon request. Subject to the purchase of airport tax and travel insurance. B&B. RETAILERS. Citibank International Inc. Registered office: 605 Strand, London WC2R 1HB. Registered mark of Citibank. N.A. Ultimately owned by Citicorp, New York, U.S.A.

CITIBANK
THE CITI NEVER SLEEPS.

Drugs certainties go up in smoke



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

More Britons now smoke cigarettes than in 1994, according to one of the more surprising surveys that see daylight at this time of year. After quitting 25,000 people, Mintel, a prominent market research group, projects that there are now 15 million users, up 2% per cent. Numbers had shrunk over two decades, at up to 500,000 a year.

Such projections can be misleading, even on a big sample, but something embarrassing seems to be happening. It is not that more youngsters are taking up cigarettes. Fewer than usual in the 35-44 age group are giving them up, especially among women and in groups that marketing folk categorise as affluent.

One trendy explanation might be that, after much vilification, smokers have become a self-identifying minority group with their own culture. That would make them worth catering for: after the pink pound the finger-stained pound. Even sub-ordinator might attract marketing strategists, those of us who smoke

pipes being perhaps a key target audience for disposable paper, carpet slippers or burial plans. Such a trend is already evident in America but not yet here, except among would-be sophisticates.

An alternative explanation is that more middle-class, middle-aged people face routine stress, especially women working their way up in a hostile world. Nicotine is believed by many smokers to offer short-term relief from stress, as well as aiding concentration.

In spite of all the successful campaigning, more people seem prepared to live with a proven, major long-term health hazard because they want short-term relief from stress. The natural reaction from health campaigners, who count the huge cost, was that efforts must be redoubled, both to prevent young people taking up the habit and to badge existing smokers to break their addiction.

If stress is increasing, however, the demand for all sorts of supposedly relaxing, energising or mind-altering drugs is also likely to rise. No "statistics" about unrecorded crime are credible. But it is safe to say that trade in illegal drugs has become so widespread that it is now the key cause of much street crime, robbery and burglary as well as gangland crime.

To fulfil its pledge to be tough both on crime and the causes of crime, the Government is bound to treat the illegal drugs trade as a high priority. Predictably, three months after taking office, it has been faced with renewed demands for a Royal Commission on illegal drugs to think the politically unthinkable for it. There is, at least, much to be said for talking the politically unthinkable. Do not assume, however, that a commission would opt to legalise cannabis and amphetamines, which ac-

usually just fight each other to a standstill. Puritans insist on ever stiffer laws. Libertarians ensure that they cannot be enforced effectively.

An economic approach might break the deadlock. Taxes have certainly helped to cut tobacco sales among under-aged schoolchildren and families with big mortgages. But the impact is limited. Demand for tobacco and alcohol is insensitive to price. That makes tax a great revenue-earner (about £9 billion a year from tobacco alone) but a poor deterrent. And national governments in the European Union no longer have so strong a monopoly on taxes. High-value items can be moved easily and often legally across borders. But there is hope. The success of unleaded petrol shows that differential tax rates on similar products can make a powerful impact on demand.

Illegal drugs generate crime because prices are too high for most users to afford and because high profits generate physical competition to defend supply monopolies. For legalisation to cut crime, it would have to slash prices heavily. Over that range, price would certainly affect demand and some people who eschew drugs because of the law would also buy. Use of legalised drugs would rise strongly. Such drugs are banned because they are reckoned to be dangerous to health or as dangerous to society as opium proved in China. In America, two states have tried to avoid this dilemma. After a campaign bankrolled by George Soros, a hedge man of the foreign exchanges, they have passed laws allowing cannabis, and in one case other drugs, to be prescribed for "medical purposes", like the dowager's brandy.

Many harmful drugs, such as tobacco and alcohol, also have medicinal benefits. But that fools no one. These are attempts to cut prices while maintaining control. As such they are interesting experiments but will still probably raise consumption. Before acting, governments should investigate the relative dangers of drugs, their different forms and chemical substitutes. Once that is done, taxes could be changed to create big differentials between more and less dangerous forms of legal drugs such as tobacco. If some illegal drugs were found to be safer than alcohol and tobacco, or no more dangerous overall, competitive production might be allowed, even if distribution is controlled.

Only a few inconvenient things are clear. Society is unlikely to become less stressful. In the absence of religion, many adolescents and insecure folk of all ages will want some form of drug to help them cope. All such drugs will to some degree be dangerous. And even in this fraught byway, it is fatal to ignore market forces.

The self-help sisterhood ready to invite Britons into its embrace

Ian Brodie on a US grouping that nurtures the talents of high-achieving businesswomen

Top British businesswomen are to be invited to join a club so exclusive few people have heard of it. It is a self-help sisterhood, based in America, called The Committee of 200, an association of women who are corporate executives or who run their own firms. To qualify, corporate executives must direct a division with \$50 million (£31 million) in annual sales. Women running their own companies must have a minimum of \$10 million in sales.

In Britain, the bar for corporate candidates will be lowered to sales of \$30 million (£19 million), the limit for entrepreneurs stays at \$10 million. The committee, known as C200 for short, has quietly grown from 200 to 370 members since its unheralded founding 15 years ago. Among the brightest stars are Ann Fudge, president of Maxwell House Coffee, Ellen Gordon, president of Tootsie Roll Industries, the largest lollipop maker in the world, Elaine La Roche, Morgan Stanley's first female managing director, and Nina McLemore, who transformed an accessories unit for the Liz Claiborne apparel empire.

C200 has a proud record of sharing expertise, not only among themselves but with would-be executives who are just starting. Marcia Radosevich is such a beneficiary. An expert on health policy, she formed a health-care software company in Massachusetts six years ago and tapped into C200 for help in going public. She was awarded C200's Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year prize, giving her a one-year membership and unlimited access to the combined know-how of the members. They advised her on how to launch and promote her company, HPR Inc, and where to find funds. Thanks to all the help, HPR

THE WOMEN WHO MAKE THE GRADE IN BRITAIN



From left: Anita Roddick, of Body Shop; Marjorie Scardino, of Pearson; and Ann Iverson, of Laura Ashley

WHEN the membership lists open for the British chapter of this club for female high-flyers, the entry qualifications will have to be less stringent than those in the US, or it will be a highly exclusive organisation. Women are still rarities at the top of British quoted companies.

Certainly to be on the guest list

for the official opening will be Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of Pearson, and Ann Iverson, chief executive of Laura Ashley. Ironically, the duo both hail from the United States. Anita Roddick is the most obvious home-grown candidate but she reached the heights by launching her own business, Body Shop.

They are all likely to support the principle of encouraging other women to join their ranks and reach for the top. The chances are that Ann Iverson, who is fighting against disastrous trading results at Laura Ashley, might also enjoy a little of the moral support that joining such an organisation can bring.

is listed on the Nasdaq exchange with a value of \$320 million. It has 180 employees and new offices opening around the US. As chairman and chief executive, Ms Radosevich has a salary of \$250,000 and has joined C200 — yearly dues are \$1,200. Nancy Peterson, mother of six children, says C200 is her "good ol' girls network". She is chief executive of Peterson Tool Company in Nashville, makers of precision-cutting tools for Ford, General Motors and other mass producers of metal parts. It is, she admits, an unusual line of work for a woman boss, but she has been there since 1979 when she was forced to conceal the sudden death of her husband and take charge. "It was such a male-

dominated business that I was convinced we'd lose our customers if they found out that a woman with no track record was running the firm," she says. So she and the staff kept quiet about the loss of John Peterson, who had died of cancer just five weeks after being diagnosed. Mrs Peterson let six months pass before breaking the news to clients. By then, all had to admit that the firm's high engineering standards had not suffered.

Mrs Peterson says she often finds it is lonely at the top. That is when she most appreciates the inspiration she draws from C200. "I go to the meetings and get my fix. I come back energised by these women who have been there and done that. I know that I

can, too." Another member, Harriet Moody-Weiss, recalls her difficulties with partners when she was setting up Strategy 21, her Manhattan PR and consulting agency. C200 members gave her the backbone to hold out for what she wanted, a majority shareholding. "When your peer group gives you encouragement, you really listen," she said.

The chairman for C200's recruiting drive in Britain is the one member already living in London, Peggy Czak-Dannenbaum, who runs CDM Holdings, investors in small, high-quality food businesses. A seminar to explain C200 to potential British members will be held in April. She already has a guest list in

mind, but is not disclosing any names because none of them has yet been invited.

She agreed there were already groups for successful women in Britain. They include Forum UK, to which she belongs, that draws its members from all walks of life. But she said that there was nothing comparable to C200's exclusive focus on businesswomen and on helping younger women to be successful in business.

C200's international chairman, Henrietta Holman Fore, who runs a firm making supporting frameworks for buildings in Las Vegas, said that another purpose of the proposed British branch was to reinforce the committee's international strength in an

increasingly global business world. For the same reason, an Asian group will be launched later this year in Hong Kong.

From the start, C200 has excluded men. Mrs Holman Fore explained: "When we began there were many venues in which men could meet one another, but a women's network was lacking. There was something unique about a woman's perspective that we thought we could capture in a women's organisation." In time she hoped that there might be no need for all-women or all-men organisations. "But for 15 years our camaraderie has been remarkable," she said.

Ms Radosevich tries to hire women executives for her software company but cannot find a sufficient supply of them with the talents she needs. C200 is the only single-gender group she has ever joined. Yet she feels there is a strong case for limiting membership to women, given their bleak statistics in the upper echelons of the workforce — only two women chief executives in all the Fortune 500 companies and women comprising only 10 per cent of their boards of directors.

Ms Radosevich said: "There are still so shockingly few women in executive positions in large corporations that many of us are starting our own companies simply to have more freedom as entrepreneurs." She believed C200's doctrine of helping one another had fully justified the vision of its founders — "there's advice I wouldn't feel as comfortable calling some guy to ask for".

Still, C200 is trying to grow beyond being simply a club for massaging egos and needs. Efforts are going into ensuring the younger generation is ready when the baton is passed. C200 members are expanding their appearances before women graduating from leading business colleges: they are formalising a mentoring programme for young women in business; they are looking at ways women can promote philanthropy around the world and how members can perpetuate their legacy by endowing chairs for entrepreneurship.

C200 will also focus on an advertising campaign in the hope of building momentum around the message that business is good for women and women are good for business.

Regional airport sector poised for take-off

Mark Court finds that progress is not without problems for the likes of Luton

Most people living near Heathrow and Gatwick airports feel harassed by aircraft noise and appalled by the thought of new runways. In contrast, regional airports elicit quite different feelings. The people of Luton, Liverpool, Cardiff and a host of other towns and cities are filled with civic pride at having an airport near their homes.

Apart from local support, these airports, from the grandly named Birmingham International to Scotland's Prestwick, are enjoying booming business. The momentum is coming simply from the rapidly growing number of passengers opting for air travel. The trend was confirmed yesterday when BAA — which operates seven of the largest airports in Britain — said it handled a total of 10.2 million passengers in July — the highest number of passengers it has recorded in a single month. Regional airports are also reporting record growth although, unlike BAA, their problem is investing to keep up with passenger growth.

But these airports, many of which are owned by local authorities, are proving as popular with the private sector as they are with local residents. Luton airport, run by its local council and handling more than two million passengers a year, has had a "very high level of interest" in its search for a private sector partner to run the airport.

The council turned to the private sector because it wants to spend £170 million over the next five years on a new taxiway, terminal and additional aircraft parking spaces. But the hunt for cash to improve the airport has ended in a high-profile row with EasyJet, the bargain basement airline that provides Luton with the bulk of its business. Stelios Haji-Ioannou, EasyJet's founder, the 30-year-old son of a Greek shipping tycoon, wants to run the airport himself but the council has barred him because of the "conflict of

interest in an airline taking over an airport". Haji-Ioannou is threatening to switch an unspecified amount of his cheap-and-cheerful operation to Liverpool, where the airport boasts just 625,000 passengers a year. The row looks more like sabre-rattling than an ultimatum. As John Kingsford, Luton airport's marketing director, said: "Our future is together in my view and I think EasyJet understands that."

EasyJet was already in negotiations with Liverpool as part of Haji-Ioannou's expansion plans before the rebuttal from Luton. Robin Tudor, Liverpool airport's commercial manager, said: "We are having lengthy talks with them for doing business out of Liverpool." Some believe Luton would be better off without EasyJet. One transport consultant said: "EasyJet is not the best idea for the airport because they are not putting money back in because the EasyJet idea is turn up, get on and fly. Luton's charter operators, Britannia and Debonair have longer check-in times so people go around shops, pubs and restaurants spending money."

Luton is particularly well placed to take advantage of the squeeze on charter flights currently taking place at Gatwick. The consultant said: "The charters cannot hold on to Gatwick for much longer because the scheduled carriers will want their slots. The natural move for the charters will be to Stansted and then Luton."

Expansion of the regional airports will bring lengthy public inquiries and ministerial decisions. But this is taking place in a political vacuum.

A Labour source said: "Within the party there was a big debate about what the line on regional airports should be. The result is that aviation will not be mentioned in the integrated transport policy document due out next Thursday. It should be addressed now before charter flights are priced out of the market with inevitable political consequences."

Board games

MICHAEL JACKSON is to join the board of the Royal Bank of Scotland. No, not that one. I mean the £270,000-a-year chief executive of the Birmingham Midshires.

However, if he is to become a board member of a plc he may have to become a little less economical with the facts. As the Building Societies Association conference last year, Jackson strenuously denied that the society had approached the West Bromwich about a takeover.



Nick Leeson will be unable to apply for a new BSc for whizz-kids

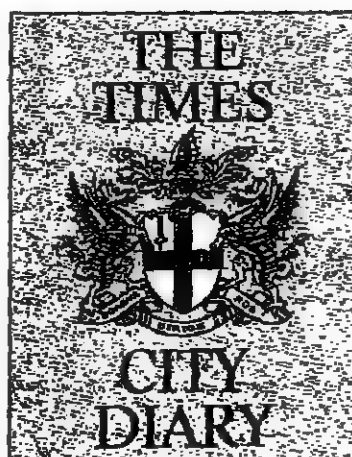
Within hours he was forced to recant through a spokesman, who described the earlier statement as "non-operational".

Jackson may also resolve to have better relations with his finance directors. One, Barry Cameron Small, held the post for just a few months two years ago. Last year, he was found dead in a fume-filled car. His widow claimed that he had personality clashes with Jackson, although this was not treated as the cause of his death. Small was succeeded by Stephen Bright, who also left after a short period.

AFTER the events at Chelmsford during the NatWest Trophy semi-final this week, City wags are starting to suggest that the crisis-ridden clearing bank can't even organise a cricket match without a fight breaking out.

Go direct

FORMER directors of Barings should head to the City University Business School where there are six places going a-begging on a new three-year BSc course entitled Investment and Financial Risk Management. Paul Dawson, the former director of stockbrokers Granville &



Co who runs the course, tells me he wanted to call the degree a "Bachelor of Rocket Science" so he could attract the sort of whizz-kids who go off and earn millions trading derivatives in all parts of the City apart from NatWest Markets.

However the degree was not included in UCAS course listings for this year so City did not get the level of applications it hoped. Now Dawson is fretting that the places will be filled with rejects from other universities who had disappointing grades and are looking for places through the clearing system.

So he is appealing for direct applications and tells me that anyone turning up at his offices in the Barbican on Friday afternoon will be interviewed — and even offered a place —

on the spot. Alas Nick Leeson cannot get day release from Changji jail.

THERE may be chaos in the boardroom at United Utilities as Sir Desmond Pitcher clings on to power by his fingernails but the company presses on trying to bolster its pummeled image. United is embarking on a consultation in conjunction with Opinion Leader Research on its social responsibilities, asking the movers and shakers how the business should behave in certain areas. One is its responsibility to employment. No doubt a certain Brian Staples would like to make a contribution.

In the soup

BAD NEWS for Giles Shepard, managing director of the Ritz Hotel. Not only is he losing his executive chef, David Nicholls, who is replacing Marco Pierre White at the Hyde Park Hotel, but the AA says his departure means the Ritz Restaurant will lose its coveted rosette despite the new chef, Giles Thompson, having won a rosette at his last berth, Danesfield House. It appears the AA rosette is not transferable and the Ritz and Thompson have to be assessed again. Sounds like a good job for someone at the AA.

Hot seats

MY old mate Stephen Hinchliffe can't even go to a football match with-

out causing a furore. We reported the other week that the former boss of Facia, the collapsed retailing group, was suing Mike McDonald, the Sheffield United chairman, over the sale of a 10 per cent stake in the club. Now McDonald has got his own back, banning Hinchliffe, a former deputy chairman of the club, and three of his friends from the directors' box. Hinchliffe is now suing to be allowed back in, claiming that McDonald promised him the four seats in a deal struck last October. Personally, I would pay not to have to watch Sheffield United.

JASON NISSE



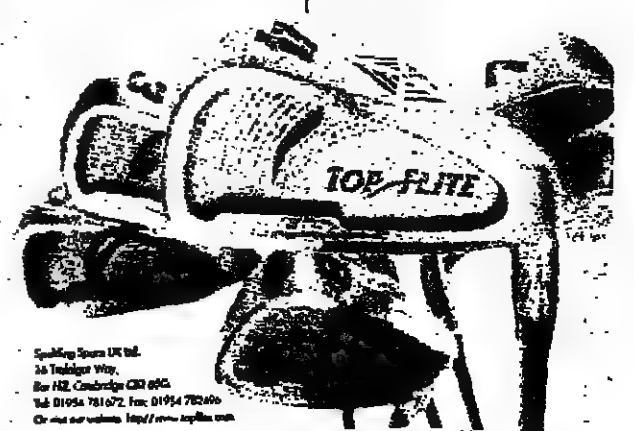
"Times are hard — I'm afraid we are going to have to let you go"

ISN'T IT TIME YOU MUSCLED IN ON SOME TOUR SUCCESS?

Top-Flite's new MUSCLE shaft is unique. The visible shaft enhancement is positioned higher in the long irons for distance and lower in the short irons for accuracy and control around the green.

TOP-FLITE
The MOST PLAYED NAME IN GOLF

Add on innovative clubhead balance bar for unsurpassed feel and workability and a diamond cut sole for solid contact in any lie, and it's no wonder Top-Flite Tour Irons are the choice of over 80 tour players worldwide — including Lee Trevino, Payne Stewart and Craig Stadler, Peter Mitchell, Richard Green and David Carter. See your golf professional for details.



ACCOUNTANCY

Turning principles into practice

Anthony Carey considers the latest report on corporate governance

Corporate governance should be more about the application of principles and less about box-ticking. Important though it is, this one conclusion in the preliminary report of the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance has pushed the other 49 recommendations on matters such as enhancing the effectiveness of boards, setting directors' remuneration and improving AGMs into the background.

The most significant recommendations deal with the structure, membership and working practices of boards. This rightly recognises that the primary responsibility for good governance lies squarely around the boardroom table. The directors can prevent problems arising whereas shareholders and auditors are, by contrast, much more likely to become involved once problems exist.

Hampel suggests that boards should consider introducing procedures to assess their collective performance as well as that of individual directors. While not supporting diversity for its own sake, the report argues that people from a wider range of backgrounds than currently represented on boards could make a real contribution as non-executive directors. It stops short of recommending a firm rule against combining the positions of chairman and chief executive but acknowledges

that these are distinct functions, generally best kept separate, and calls for companies to justify a decision to bring them together. Stronger support for keeping the two roles apart, accepted as best practice in recent years by most leading companies, could have been offered, but the proposed new disclosure is welcome. Hampel also believes a lead non-executive director should be identified by all listed companies, an extension of Cadbury's recommendation that this appointment be made when the chairman is also the chief executive.

When discussing the number of non-executive directors needed, Cadbury recommends that there should be three, of whom two should be independent. Hampel remains silent on what constitutes an independent director, a topic on which guidance would be helpful.

Taking account of the size of the board of most larger listed companies, Hampel, however, states that to be effective, non-executives should account for at least a third of total board membership. With this further safeguard in place, there may have been merit in reducing the minimum number of non-executives needed, a move that would have helped smaller listed companies. The proposal that all directors should seek re-election at the AGM at intervals not exceeding three years is a useful strengthening



Anthony Carey highlights some of the concerns about Hampel

of the board's accountability to shareholders.

Disclosure of individual directors' remuneration packages together with the pension implications of pay increases, including their transfer values, is to continue. Hampel also advocates providing more meaningful general statements on remuneration policy and companies are told to be cautious about the way in which they use comparative studies of pay in other companies. They are furthermore urged to look

carefully at the detailed design of their incentive schemes to make sure that they fit the company's needs.

The practical suggestions for improving AGMs and increasing active shareholder participation include encouraging the adoption of the proposals set out in the Myer's report for strengthening corporate links with institutional investors; making better business presentations at AGMs and eliminating the practice of bundling a number of disparate proposals

together into a composite resolution at the AGM.

If implemented by listed companies, most of Hampel's recommendations would improve the governance of corporate Britain. Whether this happens could depend on the outcome of the principles and box-ticking issue. The Hampel report indicates that it is generally accepted that the Cadbury code has led to better governance and that Greenbury's primary aim of full disclosure is being achieved.

It also emphasises the need for broad principles to be established and says that flexibility in the interpretation of code provisions will sometimes be justified. The critical unanswered question, however, is the future relationship between the existing Cadbury and Greenbury codes and the new proposed principles. A consolidation of these three elements into a single set of principles and code is promised later in the year. If the principles are, in effect, added to the existing codes, making it harder to comply with their letter without also complying with their spirit, they will be an innovative addition to the present system. Some remain concerned, though, that the introduction of the principles will dilute the existing codes and make them more vague.

The devil, as always, is in the detail.

The author is secretary of the corporate governance group of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Hampel suit cut from old flannel

THE more you read and think about the Hampel committee's draft report on corporate governance the more you realise how much old flannel it is. And you also wonder whether the committee is quite as naive as it makes itself out to be, or whether it is simply trying to see what it can get away with.

First we have yet another dose of the old blather about rules versus principles. "Good corporate governance," says the report, "is not just a matter of prescribing particular corporate structures and complying with a number of hard and fast rules. There is a need for broad principles. All concerned should then apply these flexibly and with common sense to the varying circumstances of individual companies." Transfer the idea to road safety and you can see how stupid it is. Everyone knows people should drive carefully and sensibly without endangering fellow road-users and should park in places that cause no obstruction. But we also know that unless there are specific rules to enforce those principles their objectives can never be achieved.

Hampel's committee should have dropped in on Sir David Tweedie, the chairman of the Accounting Standards Board. When he is faced with whingeing finance directors moaning that accounting standards should be short statements of principles without any extra specific rules he tends to point out fairly sharply that the rules are there only because finance directors turn a blind eye to principles whenever it suits them. The same, as Hampel must well know, would happen on corporate governance. In the very first lines of the report the committee shows how feeble the basis of its arguments are. "The importance of corporate governance lies in its contribution both to business prosperity and to accountability," is how it starts. "In the UK the latter has preoccupied much public debate over the past few years to the detriment of the former. We would wish to see the balance corrected." Is the committee seriously suggesting that the prosperity of a company is incompatible with its board of directors being accountable to the shareholders? And is it seriously suggesting that reducing a board's accountability will lead to an increase in prosperity? This is the sort of old nonsense that used to turn up in a chairman's jocular prose when no one paid any attention to what the old charlatan said in the annual report and accounts. And then

there is the continuing nonsense about the use of the word "effective" when talking about internal controls. If it wasn't so important this part of the debate would be seen as farcical. Whenever anyone has recommended, as Cadbury did, that a board of directors should not only satisfy themselves that they had an effective system of internal controls in place but should also tell the shareholders, everyone throws their arms in the air and pretends this would be impossible.

The report gets to the heart of the matter. Completely deadpan it states that "the word 'effectiveness' has proved difficult both for directors and auditors in the context of public reporting." It might be more accurate to say that it has proved counterproductive rather than "difficult". It is supposed to be difficult. It is a board of directors stating clearly that, as far as it knows, the company's risk-management processes are up to scratch. It is not an easy thing to which to put your signature. But being a director of a public company carries responsibilities and accountability. And such affirmations should not be possible to sidestep. Yet this is exactly what Hampel recommends. The report suggests the "effectiveness" element should be dropped. "This would recognise what is happening in practice and seems eminently sensible." It may seem eminently sensible to Hampel, but such comfy old boardroom practices are what have got us into the fine mess that the Cadbury committee was charged with clearing up.

The committee should be congratulated on one thing. It has expanded the scope of internal controls that should come under the code's guidance. Whereas Cadbury, by dint of its brief, limited its work to internal financial controls, Hampel recommends the rules should apply to all relevant control objectives, which should include business risk assessment and response, financial management, compliance with laws and regulations and the safeguarding of assets, including the minimising of fraud.

These are areas that have come to be regarded as the heart of a company's systems. It is patently ridiculous to then suggest that directors should not have to report back to shareholders on their effectiveness. But then that is the Hampel committee all over. It should be disbanded and a body with a bit of backbone appointed.



ROBERT BRUCE

Fear and loathing

UNCERTAINTY is rife in Moorgate Place, HQ of the English ICA. The short lease that the institute had on the adjoining offices runs out soon and, despite the fashion being for central offices rather than relocation to faraway leafy places, the institute is intent on banishing its staff to Milton Keynes. This is causing more than a bit of consternation,

particularly among people on the practice regulation side. Raymond Fear, head of practice regulation and one of the highest paid institute staff, has been asked to move from Guildford to the future wilds of Buckinghamshire, for example. Nor for nothing are they saying that Fear and loathing stalk the corridors of Moorgate Place.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fag policy

THE enterprising financial advisers at Norton Partners in Bristol dreamt up a new savings plan. A client gave up smoking and was persuaded to invest the cost of his 50 fags a day in a monthly plan. "We calculate that by putting away the total savings," says the latest

newsletter, "and assuming a 7 per cent investment return, he should be able to accumulate a fund of £38,000 after ten years and be healthy enough to enjoy the proceeds." It makes a change from index-tracking.

Lucky generals

PEOPLE who worry that the Hampel committee's proposed

changes to the rules on the responsibilities of company boards are too onerous should take note of a tale from Eastern Europe. One UK adviser was taken aback at a recent effort by a gas company to take over a bank. "What," he asked diplomatically, "did the board of directors of a gas company know about banking?" And the irrefutable response: "They have some very good generals on the board."

ROBERT BRUCE

Court of Appeal

Law Report August 14 1997

Court of Appeal

Grantor without title cannot create tenancy

Bruton v London and Quadrant Housing Trust

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Millett and Sir Brian Neill (Judgment July 31). It was not possible for a grantor who was known to have no title and who agreed to grant no more than a licence nevertheless to bring into being a tenancy by estoppel if he excluded himself and those claiming through him from possession.

The Court of Appeal so stated (Sir Brian Neill dissenting) in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of Gary Bruton against the order of June 28, 1996 of Judge James at Lambeth County Court, where on the trial of a preliminary issue, he held that Mr Bruton occupied premises as a licensee and not as a tenant.

London and Quadrant Housing Trust houses temporary housing in short life properties under a licence granted by Lambeth Council. Mr Bruton had signed an agreement with the trust to occupy a self contained flat in one such property. He argued before the county court that he was a tenant.

Mr David Watkinson for Mr Bruton; Mr Terence Gallivan for the housing trust. SIR BRIAN NEILL, dissenting, said that he regretted being unable to agree especially after 18 months' solution to a difficult problem appeared both socially desirable and eminently sensible. His Lordship could not distinguish the case from the general principle laid down in *Street v Mountford* [1985] AC 809. Nor could he circumvent *Family Housing Association v Jones* [1990] 1 WLR 779.

Mr Watkinson had submitted that it was accepted that the trust had a lesser interest in the premises than a tenancy and that accordingly it could not itself create a tenancy otherwise than by estoppel; that a tenancy by estoppel could be created, however, even where the grantor had no estate in the land, indeed it was of the essence of a tenancy by estoppel that the grantor did not have an estate in the land; that the fact that the grantee knew the grantor had

no estate did not prevent a tenancy by estoppel arising.

That estoppel was not a species of estoppel by representation but depended upon the fundamental principle of the common law which excluded a grantor from disputing the validity or effect of his own grant; that the estoppel could arise even where it had not been led by the subsequent acquisition by the grantor of an estate in the land; that there was therefore necessary to examine the nature of the grant to establish whether or not the "badges" of a tenancy were present; see *Street v Mountford* (at p819F); that any express reservation to the landlord of limited rights to enter and view the state of the premises and to repair and maintain the premises only served to emphasise the fact that the grantee was entitled to exclusive possession and was a tenant; see *Street v Mountford* (at p818C); that the matter was put beyond doubt by the decision in *Family Housing Association v Jones*. That was a formidable argument and his Lordship would have concluded that it should succeed.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the case raised a familiar problem in an unusual setting. The question was whether a document which purported to grant a licence to occupy residential accommodation nevertheless took effect in law as the grant of a tenancy.

The feature which distinguished the present case from the common principle was that the grantor had, and was known to the grantee to have, no title to the land. The case was thus located at the intersection of two settled principles of law.

The first was that the grant of exclusive possession of land for a fixed term at a rent created a tenancy: *Street v Mountford* [1985] AC 809.

The second was that the grantor of an interest in land was estopped from disputing the validity or effect of his own grant. A man who purported to grant a tenancy was not permitted to deny that he had done so by asserting his own want of title. If he had none, the grant created a tenancy by estoppel binding on him and those who

claimed through him, although it could not of course bind those with a superior title.

The question on the appeal was whether those two principles could be combined so that a grantor who had, and was known to have, no title, and who therefore agreed to grant no more than a licence, nevertheless brought into being a tenancy by estoppel if he excluded himself and those claiming through him from possession.

In *Street v Mountford*, Lord Templeman gave only three examples of exceptional circumstances where the grant of exclusive possession did not create a tenancy.

First, where the circumstances negated any intention to create legal relations at all.

Second, where the possession of the grantee was referable to some other legal relationship such as vendor and purchaser or master and servant.

Third, where the grantor had no power to create a tenancy, as in the case of a requisitioning authority.

The first and third were not exceptions to a general rule: see *Camden London Borough Council v Shortlife Community Housing* [1992] 1 HLR 330.

The relationship of landlord and tenant was a legal relationship. It could not be brought into existence by an arrangement which was not intended to create legal relations at all or by a body which had no power to create it.

The existence of those two categories was due to the fact that the creation of a tenancy required the grant of a legal right to exclusive possession.

The precise scope of the third category was, however, not clear. Was it confined to want of capacity or did it extend to want of title?

Lack of capacity to grant a tenancy would, of course, prevent the creation of a tenancy by estoppel, for the reasons given in *Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries v Matthews* [1950] 1 KB 143, 154.

The reason a requisitioning authority could not grant a tenancy of the requisitioned land was not in his Lordship's judgment due to any want of title. The cases did not suggest that the requisitioning authority lacked power to hold

land or to grant tenancies of land which it owned. The problem was that the requisitioning authority had no power to acquire and did not acquire any estate or interest in the land which it requisitioned.

In *Lewisham Borough Council v Roberts* [1949] 2 KB 608, 622, the want of title was due to the absence of any power to acquire title to the property under the relevant regulations; but the inability to grant a tenancy was due to the want of title.

In the present case both parties agreed that the grant of exclusive possession did not create a tenancy might not be limited to the case where the grantor had no capacity to grant a tenancy but might extend to the case where it had no estate or interest in the land which enabled it to do so. But that was not clearly demonstrated, for Lord Templeman did not have tenancies arise.

His Lordship considered *Goodtitle v Bailey* (1777) 2 Cowp 547; *First National Bank v Thomson* [1996] Ch 237; *Morton v Woods* [1869] LR 4 Q8 293. The latter two cases therefore both peculiar and ancient.

It had sometimes been regarded as a special species of estoppel by convention. His Lordship also referred to *Grundy v Great Boulder Proprietary Gold Mines Ltd* [1938] 58 CLR 641, 670.

The parties to both cases knew that the trust had no title and could not grant a tenancy. That was not sufficient to prevent the creation of a tenancy by estoppel. But the trust did not purport to grant a tenancy.

Tenancies by estoppel were developed at a time when title to land was doubtful and difficult to establish. They most frequently arose when the grantor's land was in mortgage.

In such a case the defect in title was technical and remediable and the parties could reasonably be supposed to be willing to disregard it. No consideration was given to the question whether the necessary conditions for a tenancy by estoppel existed. In his Lordship's judgment the court was not precluded from considering those questions for itself.

In his Lordship's opinion there was nothing in law to prevent a party in possession of land but lacking any legal estate or interest in the land from granting a licence to permit another to occupy the land.

Provided that the grantor made it clear that it was a licence only and not a tenancy, the grant would not take effect as a tenancy by estoppel.

Lord Justice Kennedy gave a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Millett.

Solicitors: G. L. Hockfield & Co, Kensington; Devonshires.

No fiduciary relationship by receipt of information

Indata Equipment Supplies Ltd (trading as Autoflect) v ACL Ltd

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Otton and Mr Justice Owen (Judgment July 31).

When a finance house with whom a broker was arranging finance for a client used confidential information provided by the broker as the basis for making an agreement directly with the client, thus cutting out the broker, the mere fact of the receipt of confidential information did not create a fiduciary relationship between the finance house and the broker so as to give rise to fiduciary obligations.

However, a blatant disregard for what should be commercial ethics and practice in the misuse of confidential information amounted to a breach of the equitable doctrine of confidence, and might also constitute the tort of unlawful interference with business.

The Court of Appeal so held when ordering a reduction of damages, to be assessed, but dismissing an appeal by the defendant Indata Ltd, from a decision of Judge Young sitting as a High Court Judge on February 1, 1996 whereby he had awarded damages of £53,520 to the plaintiff, Indata Equipment Supplies Ltd.

Indata's claim against ACL was, inter alia, for unlawfully breaching the duty of confidentiality owed by ACL to Indata by revealing to a client of Indata the level of Indata's commission for utilising the knowledge of the level of commission representing the whole or part of Indata's commission and for, in breach of ACL's duty of confidentiality and fiduciary duty to Indata, agreeing to provide finance to Indata's client at a reduced rate, which reduction was possible by reducing the commission which would otherwise have been paid to Indata.

Mr Michael Kallipetis, QC and Mr Paul Staddon for ACL; Mr Michael Roberts for Indata.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that Indata operated as an independent broker or intermediary arranging finance in the field of inter alia motor vehicles and computers. In the normal course of business, brokers received instructions from clients to approach finance houses with a view to providing the broker's clients with financial arrangements.

ACL was a company of the Standard Charter Group and its business included fleet vehicle management services and providing finance and allied services.

AST Training plc was established in 1993 to provide training through government owned training centres located throughout the United Kingdom and needed to

acquire finance for plant and equipment.

Indata had arranged finance for AST to acquire new computers. In February 1994, AST needed to finance a new fleet of cars as its existing hire agreement with Lex was due to expire.

AST approached Toyota and placed a provisional order. Toyota provided "on the road" prices to Indata. Upon instructions from AST, Indata provided a quotation of the finance costs which was more competitive than that of Toyota and was accepted on March 7. AST never queried the Indata finance figures and made no effort to better the quote.

On the same date, Mr Tarr, managing director of Indata, approached Mr Pile of Standard Charter with a view to financing the AST transaction. Indata did a considerable amount of business with Standard Charter.

Mr Pile passed on the introduction to ACL and Mr Gary Jeffries, a sales executive at ACL's Wokingham branch office, where upon Mr Tarr passed to ACL important information concerning AST including their requirements and that the present arrangements with Lex were about to expire. Mr Pile specifically counselled Mr Jeffries against going behind Indata's back and cutting it out.

In its appeal, ACL did not attempt to set aside the judge's adverse findings of fact against Mr Jeffries and acknowledged that his conduct was reprehensible. But ACL contended that, deplorable as his behaviour might have been, it did not found any cause of action.

Applying the principles in *Lac Minerals Ltd v International Corona Resources Ltd* [1989] FSR 441, a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, his Lordship concluded that he could not support the judge's finding that there existed a fiduciary relationship between the parties or a situation where fiduciary obligations were imposed upon ACL.

The relationship of broker to finance house did not fall within the established categories already recognised by the law. The parties were at all times at arms' length in the market.

Neither had undertaken to act on behalf of or for the benefit of another, their obligations to each other did not include the core duties of loyalty and fidelity. The nature of the information imparted did not raise a presumption that fiduciary obligations arose.

There was no particular vulnerability of Indata when it voluntarily imparted the information to ACL. The fact that Mr Jeffries behaved in such a disgraceful manner and that Mr Tarr repudiated confidence in him, which he would not have done if he had known the other's true intentions, was not sufficient to make their relationship a fiduciary one.

His Lordship accepted the submission that there could not be a fiduciary relationship in that situation where the broker expected the finance house to earn a profit on its finance charges. The *Lac Minerals* case envisaged that where the essence of the complaint was misuse of confidential information, the appropriate cause of action lay in breach of confidence.

Primarily, the profit-making deal was to a lesser degree the novel price between Indata and ACL were items of confidential information. That information was given to Jeffries in circumstances of confidence and was then misused by him for his own purposes and without Indata's consent.

That plainly amounted to a breach of the equitable doctrine of confidence. The profit margin and the methodology of remuneration were confidential to Indata and Mr Jeffries misused that information to put forward another deal to AST. The judge did not fall into error in concluding that there was an actionable breach of confidence.

His Lordship also held that the breach of confidence coupled with the ruthless conduct of Mr Jeffries would amount to an unlawful means so as to establish the tort of unlawful interference with the business interests of Indata.

However, his Lordship did not agree with the judge's assessment of damages. The judge had awarded a sum of £53,520, namely, what Indata had purchased the vehicles from it rather than from Toyota direct.

The correct measure of damages was on a tortious basis, namely, such sum as would have put the plaintiff into the position it would have been in had it not been for the tort or breach of confidence.

Mr Justice Owen delivered a concurring judgment.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said it seemed to him that the focus was hitherto too much on ACL's disclosure to AST of Indata's invoice prices of the vehicles to them, and altogether too little on ACL's misuse to their own ends of the information communicated to them by Indata as to AST's precise financing requirements.

The focus of his Lordship had great difficulty in regarding as tortious; the latter was plainly so. While, therefore, in the result he shared Lord Justice Otton's view that the appeal failed on the issue of liability because of ACL's breach of confidence, he would place the factual emphasis rather differently.

His Lordship expressed no view on liability for the tort of unlawful interference but agreed on the issue of fiduciary relationship and on the proper measure of damages.

Solicitors: Eversheds, Cavill, Nabarro Nathanson.

Setting out reasons why director is unfit

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Carter and Others

Those preparing and swearing affidavits in support of applications under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 should be careful to distinguish between the facts they were able to establish by direct evidence, the inferences which they invited the court to draw from those facts, and matters which were said to amount to unfitness on the part of

the directors. Mr Justice Neuberger so stated in the Chancery Division on July 9 in adopting observations by Mr Justice Chadwick in *In re Pinnemore Ltd* (unreported, October 8, 1996).

HIS LORDSHIP said that in proceedings under the 1986 Act the purpose of the liquidator's evidence was (i) to place before the court the facts which the liquidator had established as a result of holding his office; (ii) to show to the

attention both of the court and of the respondent those matters upon which the secretary of state relied in support of his allegation of unfitness.

If those distinctions were observed, it might lead to respondents concentrating more closely on those factual matters to which they actually needed to respond by affidavit under rule 6 of the Insolvent Companies (Disqualification of Directors) Proceedings Rules (SI 1987 No 2223).

That was a powerful and attractive argument but in the end his Lordship was not persuaded by it. It seemed to his Lordship to

Shares lower in volatile trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BANKS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BREWERIES, PUMPS & WARE							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ELECTRICITY							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ELECTRONICS & ELECT							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ENGINEERING							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
CHEMICALS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
DISTRIBUTORS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ENGINEERING VEHICLES							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
FOOD MANUFACTURERS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
LEISURE & HOTELS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
HOUSEHOLD GOODS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
INSURANCE							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
INVESTMENT TRUSTS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
SHORTS (under 5 years)							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
LONGS (over 15 years)							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
UNDATED							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

MASERATI
'World Exclusive'

MERIDIEN
MASERATI
 SOLE UNITED KINGDOM CONCESSIONAIRES
 FOR MORE DETAILS TELEPHONE:
07000 4 MASERATI

1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
MINING							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
OIL & GAS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
OTHER FINANCIAL							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
MEDIA							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BRITISH FUNDS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
RETAILERS, FOOD							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
RETAILERS, GENERAL							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
WATER							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
PHARMACEUTICALS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
PRINTING & PAPER							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
PROPERTY							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TELECOMMUNICATIONS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TEXTILES & APPAREL							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TRANSPORT							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ost in

What they
in their

What they
in their

Lost in the Bermuda triangle of ideas

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown
finds that about all *Speed 2* has in common with its hit predecessor is Sandra Bullock in the firing line

Things could be worse, I suppose. They could have set the sequel to *Speed* on something as slow as a tank, or the back of a tortoise. In fact, the characters gather on a cruise ship, still not the nicest mode of transport.

This is bizarre. The main virtue of *Speed* three summers ago was its careening pace, in synch with the bus wired to ignite if ever the speedometer fell below 50. But not even a vengeful hijacker played by Willem Dafoe can persuade the main prop in *Speed 2*, Cruise Control, to break maritime records as it roams the Caribbean waters. This luxury ship gleams. It glides. It nearly collides with an oil tanker. But it never moves quickly. Fault number one.

Fault number two is the ragbag of a plot, apparently put together from other movies by Jan De Bont and Randall McCormick with assistance from Sandra Bullock, who zoomed to stardom by driving the bus in the original. Once more we get the disgruntled employee inflicting a disproportionate revenge; connaisseurs may like to compare Dafoe's peeved computer fellow with Eric Bogosian's missile genius in *Under Siege 2* who hijacked a train and threatened to end the world if he was not paid \$1 billion.

Another cliché is the fortuitous presence of tough guys and gals off-duty. The line-up does not include Keanu Reeves, Bullock's original team-mate, who declined to board the sequel. So it is left to Bullock to say the line "Oh no, this is my vacation, damn it," as Dafoe disables the ship's controls and throws the captain overboard.

Poor thing, she was looking forward to six days of sun and lounging about with Jason Patric, a SWAT team member with marriage on his mind, who is trying to make amends for keeping his dangerous job a secret. Now she has to show spunk and muscle, get soaking wet, rescue a deaf girl trapped in a lift, wield a chainsaw, ride jet skis and be taken hostage.

But no matter what, *Speed 2* never generates the excitement it should. For all the cinema's spectacle and wreckage, and director De Bont's skill in cutting action to the bone, the action highlights ploop into place mechanically. And characters are often scattered too far — on the ship, in the water, or on a purloined speedboat — for them to strike sparks off each other.

They have difficulty enough striking sparks by themselves. We have seen too many gig-

gling psychics be thrilled by Jason Patric, even with his hair, details as explosive as his own. Patric never thrusts himself forward; his job is to be modestly heroic while Bullock is Bullock's shadow. Bullock waddles her girlfriend charm and ditty chatter well enough, but never generates enough sustained character to surmount the script's deficiencies. *Speed* should have stayed a one-off.

Confusingly, *The Cloud-Capped Star* after *Speed 2* is like being transported to another planet. The differences lie not so much in the

Speed 2: Cruise Control

Odeon West End
PG, 125 mins
Dawdling sequel to the summer hit of 1994

The Cloud-Capped Star

National Film Theatre
126 mins
Compelling melodrama from India's Ritwik Ghatak

Heat and Dust

Curzon Mayfair
15, 130 mins
Merchant Ivory revived

setting — even though this Indian film from 1960 unfolds in a shanty town outside Calcutta — but in the film-makers' attitudes. *Speed 2* was made to a formula that experience shows satisfies the crowds. This was not the way of Ritwik Ghatak, the combative director of *The Cloud-Capped Star*, who once dismissed cinema's mass audiences as "one great wall," a wall erected between his films and the appreciation of them.

Ghatak, a Marxist and Bengali patriot who drank himself to death in 1976, aged 50, also believed in cinema "as a weapon, as a medium to express my views". For *Speed 2* speedsters, cinema is an amusement park ride, transferred to the screen and a medium for making money.

Both views are valid. Cinema is both art and industry. Ghatak, in any case, was no out-and-out radical. *The Cloud-Capped Star*, which receives seven performances during a Ghatak tribute at the National Film Theatre, draws sustenance from popular melodrama and Bengali myth. Nor did Ghatak stand aloof. This is cinema at its most passionate and humane. You are forced to care for the heroine's fate.



Jason Patric gets himself into another fine mess as *Speed 2*'s modest but superhuman hero, the role so memorably undertaken by Keanu Reeves in the far superior *Speed*

The eldest daughter in a family living in Calcutta since Bengal's dismemberment, Neeta wears herself down to keep them in funds. Mother nags her. Father walls. She abandons her education. She loses her fiancé. One brother dies away his time waiting for fame as a singer, another suffers a factory accident. By the end, both have pulled through, but Neeta lies in a sanatorium, dying of tuberculosis, crying to the hills: "I wanted to live".

Supriya Choudhury is tender and natural as the story's sacrificial victim. But the film's expressive force chiefly derives from Ghatak's control over image and sound. Anguished faces, light filtering through window blinds, advancing trains, sheltering

trees: every component is carefully positioned for emotional impact, although without any hint of academicism.

Ghatak uses the soundtrack particularly boldly. Sound effects slip out of synch with their images, and out. The music toys with folk traditions, but also finds room for percussive clatter and electric trills that to Western ears usually herald the arrival of a creature from outer space.

Not that Ghatak's art is in any way alien. He may be the product of a particular time and place: the Second World War and his country's partition fuelled his insistence that art relates to ordinary life,

particularly the refugee experience. But he can leap over time and continents to connect with any questioning audience. And his art is not all jagged, poetic moments. Besides these, in *The Cloud-Capped Star* the eye is drawn to the throwaway details of Indian life: the BOAC airline bag slung round the singer's shoulder, indicating his worldly success; the curious advert — "Loma Darkens the Hair" — hung from a lamp post on a Calcutta street. Why would a dark-haired nation need to buy this?

Compared to Ghatak's fiery films, the Indian forays of the Merchant Ivory team cannot but seem flat-footed. To mark the 50th anniversary of India's independence, three of their productions are being re-released in new prints: the

engaging *Shakespeare Wallah* of 1965, based on the experiences of Felicity Kendal's family of travelling players; the hour-long *Autobiography of a Princess* (1975); and *Heat and Dust* (1983), the film that introduced us to Greta Scacchi. All offer thoughtful observations about the legacy of the British Raj. All benefit from finely modulated performances, while *Heat and Dust*, especially, glories in turbans, banqueting feasts and glistening jewellery.

But cinematically, Ivory offers nothing to match the excitement of Ghatak's experimentation. Any passion, like Scacchi's for the charismatic Nawab of Shashi Kapoor, is held in check. These may be films to admire, but they do not stir the blood.

'One dull ride'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

SPEED 2

Damian Samuels, 20: The makers obviously went to a large book called *Action Movie Cliches* for ideas. Georgina Lamb, 18: Sadly, this was utter rubbish. Leslie (Sarah Thomas, 19): The original *Speed* was funny, a little dark and had urgency by the bucketload. This is one dull ride by comparison. Sarah Crook, 16: Very formulaic — even Sandra Bullock can't keep this aloft.



HEAT AND DUST

Damian: Merchant Ivory films usually fall into two categories — fascinating and beautiful or dull and beautiful. This falls into the latter. Georgina: Greta Scacchi is absolutely divine in this typically stylish costume drama. Leslie: A much welcomed re-release of a superbly made film. Sarah: Merchant Ivory at their very best.

What they really did in their holidays

NEW ON VIDEO

LOOKING FOR RICHARD
Fox Guild, 12, 1996
AL PACINO'S infectious and lively film about the appeal of Shakespeare and *Richard III* is part documentary, part filmed play, shot on the run over the past few years in between the assignments that paid the bills. Pacino interviews actors, academics and passers-by on Bardic matters. Interspersed come rehearsals and performances of the play with a star-studded cast: Pacino as Richard, Alec Baldwin as Clarence. Available to rent.



Julie Moret, Kevin Conway and Al Pacino in the latter's homage to Shakespeare's *Crookback*, *Looking for Richard*

(Ona Munson) on opposite sides of a gambling racket. As usual, director Bernard Vorhaus does the best job possible with the material on offer, and rounds off the movie in grand style with the Mississippi threatening to flood New Orleans.

RASPUTIN

Mosaic, 15, 1996
ALAN RICKMAN, drenched in straggly hair and sweat, makes a convincing mad monk in this award-winning cable television drama, filmed in St Petersburg and Budapest. The pomp and ceremony is par for the course for superior TV, and as usual history is tidied up; but the grip on the story's characters places it above the norm. Ian McKellen and Greta Scacchi form a poignant pair as Tsar

Nicholas and his wife, who come under Rasputin's sway. The director is Uli Edel, who has learnt restraint since the days of *Last Exit to Brooklyn*. Available to rent.

WALKING AND TALKING

Electric, 15, 1996
EMOTIONAL adventures of young New Yorkers who shuttle between apartments and coffee shops, cinemas and therapists, analysing their lives, walking and talking. Nicole Holofcener's debut feature takes a female perspective on the Manhattan merry-go-round, and peppers the script with funny lines. Engaging players — Catherine Keener, Anne Heche — squeeze a kaleidoscope of feelings into a tiny space. Available to rent.

Geoff Brown

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: All-out mezzo attack; bright but obscure Vivaldi; and highs in Loewe

OPERA
John Higgins

VESELINA KASAROVA

Mozart arias
Dresden Staatskapelle/Davis
RCA 09026 68661 *** £14.99

KASAROVA is the fiercest of the outstanding bunch of young mezzos who have emerged over the past few years. Like her Bulgarian compatriot Lyuba Welich she delights in high-tension music, fearless in her attack and quite unafraid of letting all her emotions show. These qualities were well to the fore when she took the title role in Rossini's *Tancredi* for RCA a year ago.

She is on the warpath again at the start of this Mozart recital with a performance of *Smante implacabili*, from *Così fan tutte*. Rarely has the character of Dorabella sounded more offended as she calls for the light and air to be shut out lest they intrude on her grief. Idamante's two arias from *Idomeneo* suit Kasarova well too.

But tenderness and pity are not yet in Kasarova's armoury, as her excursions into the soprano repertory prove. Elvira's *Mi tradi* and Zerlina's *Vedrai carino* from *Don Giovanni*, for example, are notably less successful. Kasarova clearly enjoys being the aggressor and using her extraordinary chest register. She sounds perfectly happy when wearing the trousers of a Roman soldier's tunic, but dispensing feminine halm is another matter altogether.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0845 023498

The recital has the great plus of being accompanied by the Dresden Staatskapelle under Colin Davis. Mozartians all to their combined fingertips.

ORCHESTRAL
Barry Millington

VIVALDI

6 Violin Concertos, Op.12
Ben-Zvi/AAM/Hogwood
L'Oiseau-Lyre 443 556-2 *** £15.49

VIVALDI'S Op.12 set of violin concertos has no fancy name such as *L'Estro Armonico* or *La Stravaganza* to boost it, and contains nothing as celebrated as the Seasonal offerings of Op.8. Yet this set of six concertos is scarcely less inventive than any of the better

known sets. Certainly in these spirited accounts by Pavlo Ben-Zvi (playing a 1760 instrument from the Hill workshop) with the Academy of Ancient Music under Christopher Hogwood there is never a dull moment.

Vivaldi may have written for more colourful combinations of solo instruments, but there is ample compensation here in the range of moods evoked, from dreamy, rhapsodic slow movements to virtuosic quick-metre finales. There is also a piece, No.3 in D, which is effectively a concerto a quattro, giving rise to wonderfully spacious textures, admirably caught here.

Ben-Zvi is fully up to the virtuosic demands of the solo writing, and Hogwood provides invigorating, sympathetic accompaniments.

VOCAL
Hilary Finch

CARL LOEWE

Lieder Vol.7
Schmidt/Carben
CPO 999 305-2 *** £14.99

AS A parallel but more shadowy project to Hyperion's Complete Schubert Edition, the CPO label is conscientiously building an aural encyclopedia of the songs and ballads of Schubert's later contemporary, Carl Loewe. Loewe, who travelled playing and singing his own songs, was far less discriminating than Schubert in the texts he chose, and much of his output consists of long historical ballads which acted as a sort of narrative performance art.

Cord Garben, pianist and

deviser of the series, has entrusted the fine baritone Andreas Schmidt with this volume. In order to win the plums — songs like the spooky *Herr Oluf* and the witty and brightly heraldic *Count Eberstein* — Schmidt also has to undertake the ten-minute parable *Kaiser Otto's Christmas* and the somewhat dubious *Mohrenfurst* trilogy: a Biedermeier view of Negro life, giraffes, crocodiles, slavery and all.

The standard of performance and the opportunities for discovery make this disc and this series a valuable and entertaining enterprise, certainly worth a periodic tasting and testing.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

"YOU'LL LOVE IT TO DEATH...MADE MY HEART ACHE, MY EYES WEEP AND MY BELLY LAUGH...WHAT MORE CAN YOU ASK FROM A MOVIE?" ★★★★★ THE DAILY MIRROR

"This is a brilliant film and you'll laugh until you cry" NEW WOMAN

"A life affirming comedy to see after a bad day at the office" ELLE

ROSEANNA'S GRAVE

NOW SHOWING AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AUGUST 22

WANDER THEATRE
HAYMARKET
KESINGTON
SWISS COTTAGE
RICHMOND
CAMDEN

TALKING PAGES
0800 600 900
FOR FULL DETAILS

EDINBURGH

Kirstine Landon-Smyth directs Tamasha Theatre Company in *Tainted Dawn*, a new play by Hannah Smith which aims to explore the legacy of Hindu-Muslim partition in 1947 India (Galloway, 7.30pm, Fri 8.30pm, Sat 8.30pm, Sun 8.30pm). In *Shylock* (8.30pm), the original Peter Hafford is joined by the singers of the Durdent Consort, who will perform examples of Bach chorales on which the Oglethorpe prelude is based (see reviews, page 33). At 8pm in the Usher Hall, Thomas Zahoradzky makes his debut at the Proms as a conductor, directing the Scottish Chamber Orchestra from the violin in Mozart's *Hafner Serenade* and Violin Concerto No 5. Earlier in the day (Queen's Hall, 11am), the tenor Ian McEwan, accompanied by Julius Drake on the piano, sings Schubert's *Die schöne Melody* (see reviews, page 33). Festival box office (011-473 2000).

FRINGE events include this morning's performance of 12, works by George Altschuler by Tabled Theatre, Glasgow (Assembly Rooms, Venue 3, 11.30am). Fringe box office (011-226 5138). Tickets, 011-226 5138 (information). At 8pm, the Swedish pop group the Wannabes, plus support, make their festival debut at the Jaffa Cafe (Venue 7, 011-557 6888), as part of the Edinburgh New Music Festival.

LONDON BBC Proms: Valery Gergiev conducts the Kirov Orchestra, from the Mariinsky Theatre, St Petersburg, in two colour classics of the Russian repertoire — Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* — and Shostakovich's intense settings of Jewish folk poetry, Albert Hall, 7.30pm. **FAMILY CIRCELES** Early Ayckbourn, featuring his original, when three women switch partners for each act, thought it

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mahey

doesn't help him much. A self-out last winter and making a welcome return, *Orange Tree*, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-840 3833). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens August 18, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Sun, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Until September 27.

HEARTBREAK HOUSE Strong cast led by David Hall's revival includes Emma Fielding, Patricia Hodge, Corin Nemesis, Penelope Wilton, Richard Griffiths, Peter McNairy. *Orange Tree*, Richmond (0181-840 3833). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm.

NORTHAMPTON Loading and convincing adaptation by Martin Franks of Mark Twain's masterpiece, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Directed by John Harrison. Royal, Guildhall Road (01604 35333). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Until September 6.

LONDON GALLERIES Art Commission: 50 Years of Pakistan: A Celebration of Art (0171-286 3838). Art First: Back to Nature (0171-434 5079). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 11am-5pm. *Barbara Jefford and Kathleen Turner in Somerset Maugham's Our Betters at the Festival Theatre in Chichester*

THEATRE GUIDE Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

CARNABY STREET New musical by James Hall: the psychodrama 1960s, a working-class musical and the upper-class group. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

CINEMA GUIDE

Gillian Mahey's assessment of films in London and elsewhere

BEAN (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THEATRE

Barbara Jefford and Kathleen Turner in Somerset Maugham's *Our Betters* at the Festival Theatre in Chichester



Barbara Jefford and Kathleen Turner in Somerset Maugham's *Our Betters* at the Festival Theatre in Chichester

Stale upper crust

Not even in irony could a playwright use this title today.

THE SEAGULL: After its national tour, Stephen Unwin's production arrives in London. Cheryl Campbell plays Marina, Josie Blythe is Nina, and David Hall is Arkadina. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

ELSEWHERE **ALBANY** Tadeusz Kantor, principal conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, directs the British-Polish Orchestra in Mendelssohn's *Italian* Symphony. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES Art Commission: 50 Years of Pakistan: A Celebration of Art (0171-286 3838). Art First: Back to Nature (0171-434 5079). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 11am-5pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

Multi-parties in the madhouse

The first inkling that this Edinburgh boarding-house drama is the Narrator, Will Ashcroft, who introduces David Kane's play like *Griff Rhys Jones* would introduce an episode of *Edwardian Criminals*.

THE SEAGULL After its national tour, Stephen Unwin's production arrives in London. Cheryl Campbell plays Marina, Josie Blythe is Nina, and David Hall is Arkadina. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

ELSEWHERE **ALBANY** Tadeusz Kantor, principal conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, directs the British-Polish Orchestra in Mendelssohn's *Italian* Symphony. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES Art Commission: 50 Years of Pakistan: A Celebration of Art (0171-286 3838). Art First: Back to Nature (0171-434 5079). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 11am-5pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

Overdue American debut

TUESDAY was a good day for modern music at the Proms, with the Boulez concert of 20th-century classics followed by an all-American late-night programme that included a world premiere. The themes crossed in Barber's classic and American *Adagio for Strings*, but the rest of the composers featured by the enterprising Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square, had not been heard at the Proms before.

THE SEAGULL After its national tour, Stephen Unwin's production arrives in London. Cheryl Campbell plays Marina, Josie Blythe is Nina, and David Hall is Arkadina. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

ELSEWHERE **ALBANY** Tadeusz Kantor, principal conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, directs the British-Polish Orchestra in Mendelssohn's *Italian* Symphony. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES Art Commission: 50 Years of Pakistan: A Celebration of Art (0171-286 3838). Art First: Back to Nature (0171-434 5079). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 11am-5pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's burlesque in a film about a man who is a bit of a clown. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BBC PROMS

Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square, had not been heard at the Proms before.

THE SEAGULL After its national tour, Stephen Unwin's production arrives in London. Cheryl Campbell plays Marina, Josie Blythe is Nina, and David Hall is Arkadina. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

ELSEWHERE **ALBANY** Tadeusz Kantor, principal conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, directs the British-Polish Orchestra in Mendelssohn's *Italian* Symphony. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES Art Commission: 50 Years of Pakistan: A Celebration of Art (0171-286 3838). Art First: Back to Nature (0171-434 5079). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 11am-5pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF BISHAMPTON Set on a remote Irish island, with excellent playing. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

BOULMATH Nicola Macdonald plays a case of people in a remarkable solo performance presenting the real life of modern urban estates. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

THE HERALD Peter Whelan's latest play. *Lyric Theatre*, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (011-414 6009). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: Aboriginal dance, Hungarian concertos, epic Bach, Indian anguish and triumphant Verdi

Distress call from heart of Australia

In the early years of this century white Australians were still venturing out into the woods in the remote Northern Territories to hunt Aborigines. In more recent years white Australians have been taken to task for their appalling crimes against Aboriginal children. And today a proud indigenous culture, which thrived for millennia before the Europeans arrived, stands destroyed by colonial arrogance. It's enough to make any right-thinking person angry.

This is the anger that Stephen Page and his creative team want you to feel upon watching *Fish*, the new piece from Bangarra Dance Theatre given its premiere on Tuesday. We know this because the voice that launches *Fish* tells us so. It also tells us that the members of Australia's leading Aboriginal ensemble are burning with a desire for justice. But, more than this, they are burning with a desire to reclaim their ancestral culture.

Fish is inspired by the Aboriginal's deep connection with the natural elements; fish are the unborn souls, haunted individuals waiting for their chance to be mortal. Described as a "journey through three worlds", *Fish* moves from swamp to river to ocean, an over-riding landscape through which change and nature's mysteries.

As Page's choreography makes clear, the inhabitants of this spirit-soaked world are not on the earth but of the earth. At times you feel they are even in the earth, so strong is their affinity for its murky energies. Water is the giver of life; it purifies and invigorates us, and we are humbled by its very intensity.

In the swamp — the work's strongest section — dancers slip into reed cages like creatures of a dank, dense underworld. The women are presented as croaking, feral beasts, charged with a crude sexuality. Later on, though, the

DANCE

dancers look like street kids, the disaffected youth you would find in any city. A majestic lone figure, Djakapurra Munyarrryun, wanders through the shadows, a shadowy echo of ancient tribal voices.

Despite its overwhelming cultural agenda, *Bangarra* (it means to make fire) is, according to Page, primarily a contemporary dance company. Eschewing the traditional mythological stories, *Fish* uses a variety of dance styles to tell its new urban myths, from academic contemporary dance to the movement language of late 20th-century cities. But as a choreographer Page lacks the range to give his language full descriptive powers, especially when it comes to anger.

He is not helped by David Page's score (a third Page brother, Russell, is one of the dancers). The music is a dire amalgam of thickest symphonic rock and the noisy thump and crash of the urban rural landscape. The composer has abandoned the digression, capable of haunting resonances, in favour of the synthesizer, a monumentally bland music-maker, while the traditional Aboriginal percussion, the *didj* sticks, are forced to bow to a full Western drum sound.

In the end, it is this stylistic cross-dressing which, scupper *Fish*. Composer and choreographer have borrowed from one culture in order to illuminate another, but have not made a convincing case for either. The only message you take away from this production is that Aboriginal culture is doomed to be forever outmoded by the spiritual bankruptcy of the MTV generation.

DEBRA CRANE



The "majestic figure" of Djakapurra Munyarrryun in Bangarra Dance Theatre's new work, *Fish*.

Keyboard classes in Bartók and Bach

CONCERTS

ALTHOUGH it was one of the most attractive prospects of this year's festival, by the halfway stage it was not looking so good. The public had evidently decided that two Bartók piano concertos were one or two too many, and András Schiff had just delivered an under-powered account of the first of them. Yet by the end of the evening the Usher Hall audience was demanding encores.

One reason was that in the interval the soloist had changed pianos, discarding a rather dull instrument for a much brighter one. Another was that Schiff clearly likes Bartók's Third Piano Concerto more than he likes the First, the essentially percussive nature of which he seems unable to accept.

But his interpretation of the Third Concerto was one of rare radiance and lyrical beauty, taking a relaxed joy in the flexibility of the melodic line and its decorative elaborations, and celebrating the paradoxical exuberance of the dying complete last movement.

At the same time, the more the audience got to know Ivan Fischer and the Budapest Festival Orchestra, the more it got to like them. It is

an ensemble distinguished not only by its high-quality technical accomplishment but also by the freshness of its approach to a score as familiar as Stravinsky's *Firebird* suite. As he demonstrated in an eccentric series of encores — the tiny piccolo solo from Bartók's Romanian Dances and the off-stage horn Epilogue from Britten's *Serenade* preceding the inevitable Brahms Hungarian Dance — Fischer is a conductor with a rare sense of humour as well as a liberated imagination.

Before that concert Peter Hurford gave the first of an epic series of 15 recitals of Bach organ works. Greyfriars Kirk is clearly going to be the centre of a minor cult during the next two or three weeks. The atmosphere inside the church is serene, the Peter Collins organ a model of acoustic clarity and of modesty not normally associated with the instrument, and Hurford's playing is inspired rather than intimidated by the enormity of what he has taken on.

GERALD LARNER

Grandly unstaged

OPERA

Macbeth
Festival Theatre

IRONICALLY enough, the performances of *Macbeth* reduced to concert form turned out to be the hit of this year's Verdi Festival at Covent Garden, and if Edinburgh audiences were feeling short-changed they were not showing it. The first of the Royal Opera's three repeats played to a Festival Theatre noticeably fuller than for *Platée*, and was received with uproarious enthusiasm. Rightly so, as Tuesday's performance had the edge even on the first night in London.

And "edge" is the word. Edward Downes emphasised the febrile quality of Verdi's scoring to conjure up a world dangerously out of kilter. This was especially true of the Banquet Scene, where instead of apologising for Lady Macbeth's Drinking Song he revelled in its brass vulgarity, and the neurotically lippant orchestral paragraphs that surround it.

Anthony Michaels-Moore's *Macbeth* is of course a decidedly more interesting character, and the white-hot intensity of his interpretation stifled any sense of incongruity between white-tie formality and more than veridical action (the chorus, on marvellous form, have discarded their scores since

London, adding to the impression of a staged performance). The usurper's feelings are written on Michael-Moore's face: terror, doubt, thin-tipped determination, and — terrifyingly — self-knowledge in *Pietà, rispetto, amore*.

Georgina Lukács has relaxed — if that is the right word for anyone singing Lady Macbeth — since London, with more expressive metal in her tone; Dennis O'Neill (Macduff) and Roberto Scanduzzi (Banquo) were outstanding as before. The sheer conviction of the performance of this first (1847) version cast doubts on some of the revisions. Of course the 1865 score is "better", but why did Verdi bother to rewrite the stirring Exiles' Chorus, or jettison Macbeth's cabaret *Vada in fiamme*, a far stronger curtain number for the Apparition Scene than the duet that replaces it? Food for thought.

RODNEY MILNES

Sour view of Indian dream

On a trapeze two bored-looking men carrying a bier on which lies a corpse wrapped from head to toe in white. They look despairingly up. Is there a vulture about? No, not even a kite or a crow. The conversation turns to methods of taking revenge on wrongdoers and their families by ensuring that the souls of the dead do not escape their bodies. Then comes news of those missing birds. There have been riots in the local town that have left scores of Muslims and Hindus massacred. If this goes on, what's to become of those who earn their bread by ensuring bones are properly soured?

The views of Parsee undertakers are, I suppose, heard in the theatre about as often as those of Bornean knife-grinders or Greenland chimney-sweeps. But could there be a more interestingly oblique way of looking at the great events that happened in India half a century ago? The company responsible, Tanisha, came from nowhere last year with *East is East*, a highly impressive play about the



Parminder K. Nagra in the fine *A Tainted Dawn*

travails of the Asian British. Now it consolidates its reputation with an intimate epic (sponsored by A.A. Brothers), whose title and subtitle, "images of partition", is clearly meant to foreground audiences that 50 years of independence are not going to be straightforwardly celebrated.

THEATRE

Actually, celebration is on the mind of those crammed into the tiny railway compartment in which Sudha Bhuchar and Kristine Landon-Smith's play opens. It is 1947, and they are travelling to Delhi to see Nehru take power from the British. But quarrels break out in the carriage. Riots occur at a stopover. A studious-looking Hindu passenger answers a Muslim's request to help him aboard by hitting him over the head. And then, up go the stage-lights to reveal the only permanent features of Sue Mayer's set: two trees as gnarled and bare as their counterpart in *Waiting for Godot* and, like it, representing the blasting of hope.

As schisms worsen, the eight-person cast makes nonsense of its numbers by mounting scenes in which tens of terrified villagers run from their burning homes, scores of

refugees hurry onto lorries, and troupes of bent, exhausted people trudge into transit camps. Some are Hindus, some are Muslims, and all are evidence that the dream of a secular state, hospitable to all faiths, is ending in division, death and the enforced exchange of populations.

Individual stories surface too. Shaheen Khan's Laurie, who fancied herself "the Indian Lauren Bacall", ends up with a baby and a mother-in-law in a remote village. Badi Uzzaman's Rannath visits the house in Pakistan he loved and lost, to find it in ruins. But the authors linger longest over Pali, who is misled by his Hindu parents in the chase of departure, adopted by Muslims, and, when restored to his mother, seems as divided as the sub-continent itself.

Could the play go deeper, explore further? I suppose so. But I doubt if any theatre company anywhere will bring the disappointment and disillusion of 1947 so grittily to life.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

A GREAT SUMMER CD FOR JUST £2.99

Today *The Times* offers you the chance to collect the fourth of five specially compiled CDs in our summer CD offer. Featuring more than 50 tracks, the five CDs encompass every aspect of contemporary and classical music, bringing you the biggest names in classical, opera, rock, pop and jazz. All the tracks are original recordings by Sony Music and EMI.

Every day this week we will be featuring a different title.

Today we have two of the greatest voices in the opera firmament, Eva Marton and José Carreras, right.

Each CD costs just £2.99 (inc p&p in the UK). Or, you can get all five CDs in the set for the special price of just £9.99 — a saving of £4.96.

To order, call the credit card hotline 0990 143 954 or complete the coupon.

Today's CD: *Eva Marton & José Carreras* *Playing time: 43:30*
(01) *Elisio Mejíafole: L'altra Notti* (Marton) (02) *Giordano Andrea Chénier: La Mamma Morta* (Carreras) (03) *Puccini Tosca: Mariol Mariol Mariol* (Scena) (Marton-Carreras) (04) *Donizetti Poliuto: Sfolgora Divino Raggio* (Carreras) (05) *Giordano Andrea Chénier: Come Un Bel Di Di Maggio* (Carreras) (06) *Puccini Tosca: Vissi D'arte* (Marton) (07) *Puccini Tosca: E Lucevan Le Stelle* (Carreras) (08) *Strauss Salome: Ah! Du Wolltest Mich Nicht Deinen Mund Küssen, Lassen* (Marton) (09) *Giordano Andrea Chénier: Un Di, All'Azzurro Spazio* (Carreras)

THE TIMES SUMMER CD OFFER

PRODUCT	Code	Price	Qty	Total
Sir Simon Rattle	9705	£2.99		
12 o'clock Chill Out	9719	£2.99		
Jazz in the 80s	9728	£2.99		
Eva Marton & José Carreras	9713	£2.99		
Bitter Sweets	9701	£2.99		
The complete set of 5 CDs 9701, 9705, 9713, 9719, 9728, L496	SET	£9.99		
Postage and packing per order, insert appropriate value in total column				
Republic of Ireland & EC	EUR01	£1		
Rest of the world	ROW01	£3		
TOTAL				£

I enclose a cheque/PO for £..... made payable to CD Ltd. Please write your name, address and cheque card number on the back of your cheque. Allow 28 days for delivery.

Credit Card Payment Card number:

Expiry date

☐ MasterCard/Access ☐ Visa

Name on card

Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from this above

Signature

Sent for: The Times Music Collection, Newcastle upon Tyne X, NE6S 3GL

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive further offers from Times Newspapers Ltd associated companies ☐

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms Initials Surname
Address

Postcode Day Tel

HOTLINE FOR CREDIT CARD ORDERS: 0990 143 954
LINES OPEN 9AM-5PM WEEKENDS; 9AM-3PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

+44 990 143 954
Rol and overseas

Standard BT national tariffs apply to 0990 numbers

B0814

September - 11 October

The Royal Opera
Handel
Directed by
Lindsay Posner
Ivor Bullock
Place
Ramsay
Directed by
Mark Morris
Mark Morris Dance Group
Directed by
Nicholas McGegan

The Turn of the Screw
Britten
Directed by
Deborah Warner
Directed by
Colin Davis

Barbican Centre
0171 638 3331

Overdub
America
debut

BBC PRODUCTIONS
Presenting
The
Sally
Johns

BATES
THE
PERB
THE
ON GRAY
THE
D PINTER
WITTE
THEATRE

Bargains of the week: from student flights to Mexico to self-catering cottages in Co Clare

HOLIDAYS

TUSCAN apartments in a farmhouse overlooking the River Arno are available from August 23 for a fortnight for £609 a person, a £77 saving, from Crystal Italy, with return flights from Gatwick or Manchester and car hire. Details: 0181-340 5554.

■ COTTAGES at cut prices for a week from August 23 are on offer from Country Holidays, including one sleeping four in the Lincolnshire Wolds for £286, a £100 reduction, and another in North Yorkshire sleeping 12 for £305. Details: 01282 445095.

■ CRETE for £200 for a fortnight's B&B, flying from Luton on August 21, is on offer from Lunn Poly. Details from the company's Holiday Shops.

■ SOLOS is offering a week in Hungary at a hotel on Lake Balaton with several leisure facilities. Price from £499 a person, including half board and a return flight from Heathrow on August 23. Details: 0181-951 2800.

■ FLORIDA for a fortnight's self-drive holiday for £309 a

person, a £58 saving, with a flight from Manchester to Sanford, Orlando, on August 23, is available from Unijet. Details: 0990 336336.

■ RHODES for £409 a person for two weeks' self-catering with a flight from Newcastle on August 23 is on offer from Kosmar Holidays. Details: 0181-368 6833.

■ COSTA BRAVA for two weeks' self-catering with flights from Manchester, Birmingham or Teesside on August 25 is available from £245 a person, based on four sharing, from Last Stop Holiday Shop. Details: 0541 503400.

■ PATTAYA beach resort, Thailand, for £599 for a fortnight's room-only accommodation with daily flights from Heathrow until August 31, is available from Hayes & Jarvis. Details: 0181-222 7822.

■ SUMMER CAMP at a saving from August 30 is on offer from Superchoice. Prices for multi-activity holidays for seven to 16-year-olds on the Isle of Wight now cost from £227. Details: 01273 691100.

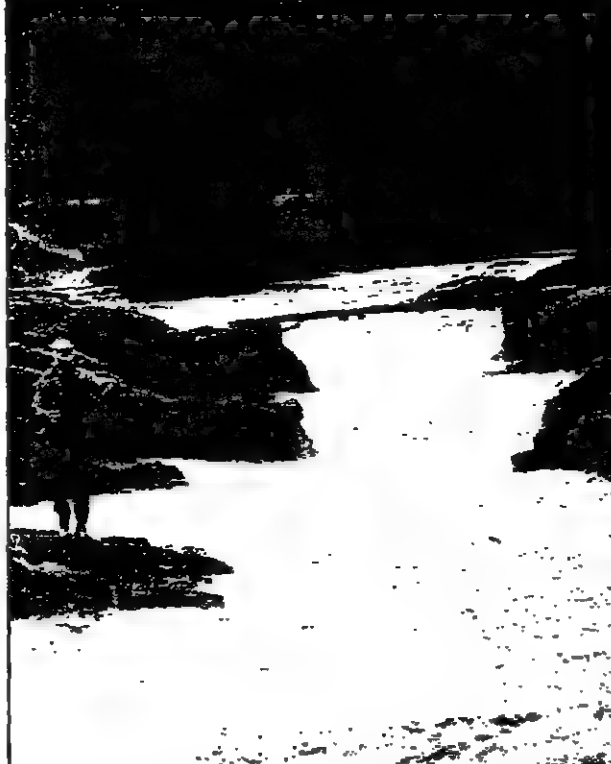
FERRIES

HOVERBOARD and Conner South Eastern are jointly offering an £18 day trip fare for two people, including rail travel from 15 stations throughout London and the South East and cross-Channel travel from Folkestone to Boulogne. Details: 0990 240241.

■ IRISH Ferries Holidays has self-catering cottages available in Co Clare from August 23. Prices start at £133 a person for seven nights, based on four travelling, including return ferry with car. Details: 0990 170000.

■ STENA Line has launched its winter ski-drive brochure with £50 discounts off certain self-catering properties booked by October 1st. Prices for a week's holiday start at £37 a person, including return ferry for two cars. Details: 0990 747474.

■ LATE availability holidays with Scandinavian Seaways include a four-night Legoland and West Coast holiday in Denmark for £203 a person (£158 a child) departing Harwich on August 18. Details: 0990 333111.



Short breaks, with the chance to catch salmon on the River Sheen before the season's end, are on offer in September at the five-star Sheen Falls Lodge, Kenmare, Co Kerry, from £220 a person, including two nights' B&B and one dinner. Flights extra. Details: 00 353 64 41600

FLIGHTS

AIR Canada has business class excursions costing one-third the normal price. Flights to Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver cost £1,199. Those to St John's and Halifax are priced at £879. Book 14 days ahead and travel by September 9. Details: 0990 247226.

■ SINGAPORE Airlines has cut-price £385 excursion fares to both its home town (Singapore) plus Penang and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. Details: 0171-938 3939.

■ DURING September, Campus Travel has £349 return student flights to Mexico City out of Gatwick. Details: 0171-730 8111.

■ LUPUS Travel has bargain peak season flights to Italy departing Gatwick. Milan, for example, costs £129, Verona and Venice £159, Rome £169 and Palermo £199. Details: 0171-306 3000.

■ IRISH airline City Jet (which flies from London City) has fly-drive deals with Budget on arrival in Dublin. Daily rates for a small car start at £41. Details: 0345 445588.

HOTELS

THE Montaigne Hotel, at Marble Arch in London, has a special rate next month of £195 a night for two people, including breakfast, VAT and car parking. In addition, guests staying in September can reserve two nights for the price of one during January 1998, ideal for the winter sales. Details: 0171-402 4288.

■ ROOKERY Hall Hotel at Worleston, Cheshire, has a two-night break available this month for £160 a person, including dinner, with a third night (B&B only) available free. Details: 01270 610016.

■ A 15 per cent discount off the normal rate of £165 a room a night is available at the Pembroke Court Hotel in London's Notting Hill Gate over the Bank Holiday week-end when the carnival takes place. For carnivalgoers, a free whistle is included in the price. Details: 0171-229 9977.

■ CARLTON hotels in The Hague and Utrecht have six-night offers for the next couple of weeks, through World End Travel, including car ferry from Dover to Calais. Cost is

£279 a person, based on double occupancy, with children free if sharing their parents' room. A pass for local attractions is included. Details: 01862 733551.

■ THE Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Hong Kong has a "summer interlude" offer available through Leading Hotels of the World until September 15 at HK\$2180 (about £167) a room a night, including fruit and flowers on arrival, use of the health club and a late checkout. Details: 0800 131123.

■ A TWO-NIGHT break this month at the four-star Richmond Gate Hotel, close to Richmond Park in southwest London, costs £99 a person based on two sharing. The offer, through Sunvil UK, includes full English breakfast and use of the leisure facilities. Details: 0181-232 9788.

■ THISTLE Hotels has bank holiday bargains at 69 of its UK hotels (excluding London), including £113 a person for three nights half board at the Northumbria Hotel in Newcastle. Details: 0800 332244.

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 481 1989

CHECK-IN

FAX:
0171 782 7824

NILE CRUISE		WORLD BREAKS		NEW YORK		CONNECTIONS		NEW ZEALAND		SOUTH AFRICA	
August - Sept	Full Board	Prices include flights & hotel	Las Vegas	Athens 3nts 239	INC. 2 NTS	THE TRAVEL PEOPLE	CHRISTMAS DEPARTURES	£799	Flights from	£329	
7 night Cruise	Inc Excursions	7 nights BB	Paris 2nts 109	Thailand 7nts 429	HOTEL & RT	NEW YORK \$189 BOSTON \$219 SEUL/TOKYO \$489 THAILAND/INDIA \$299	Current flights from only	£629	Capetown 459		
			Prague 2nts 229	Bali 3nts 499		WASHINGTON \$225 DENVER \$285 JOHANNESBURG \$329 K.LUMPUK/STORY \$370			Durban 399		
						SEATTLE \$285 CANCUN \$285 DUBAI/BAHRAIN \$249 HONG KONG \$399			Car hire per day 30		
						CALIFORNIA \$275 CARIBBEAN \$289 EGYPT/ISRAEL \$149 MORE DEST. AVAILABLE			Campers per day 70		
									Hotels per day 30		

UK - BANGKOK - HONG KONG - RTN \$459 • UK - SINGAPORE - BALI - RTN \$599 • UK - MIAMI - LA - NEW YORK - RTN \$299 • LOW SEASON EARLY BUYER PRICES
AMERICAS 0171 495 5010 • WORLDWIDE 0171 495 5545 • EUROPE 0171 408 4405 • FAX (+44) 171 408 4450
BUY DIRECT AND SAVE \$\$\$ ON FLIGHTS • HOTELS • CARS • WORLDWIDE HOLIDAYS • 93 WIMPOLE STREET LONDON W1 • ATOL 3369 • IATA • www.connect2-uk.net • Low season early buyer prices

WORLDWIDE
RETURN PRICES FROM

SYDNEY	\$599	AUCKLAND	\$649
PERTH	\$599	SINGAPORE	\$389
BANGKOK	\$356	TOKYO	\$499
BALI	\$449	DELHI	\$306
MEXICO	\$382	RIO	\$499
PRAGUE	\$183	WARSAW	\$169

FOR THE BEST FARES & STOP-OVERS CALL TODAY
0161 272 8433 LONG HALL
0161 272 8455 (M.A. LAMMIE TRAVEL)

USA CANADA
INC. 2 NTS
HOTEL & RT
\$299

Motorhomes & Self-Drive Packages
Call the Experts
0990 133 343

LONDON TOURIST CENTRE
100 OFF ALL FLIGHTS BOOKED
0171 262 2099

AUSTRALIA
Only \$789
0162 513100

TRAVEL DREAMS
0181 795 5180

FLIGHTS
0990 239904

MAJOR USA
MAJOR TRAVEL
offer great value on low cost flights to all destinations in the USA, with the leading scheduled airlines.
Car hire, hotels and tours available.
RESERVATIONS
0171 485 7017

KENYA SPECIALISTS
For Tailor-made Safaris
Exotic Beaches or just Flights
Video Brochure Available
0181 840 8881

Monument Travel
01476 404747

FARESAVERS
01476 592095

FARESAVERS
01273 626242

PRICE CHECK
01476 565555

CARUS
01476 514666

benz
NEW YORK £189
HONG KONG £399
0171 255 2222

USA £79
SPAIN £99
CANADA £147
PORTUGAL £109
FRANCE £159
ITALY £169
Call us now we are Open 7 days a week
01923 850085

FLYING FROM GATWICK
FREE CAR PARKING & 24 HOUR COURTESY COACH
01293 534807 or Fax 01293 533218
IFIELD COURT HOTEL

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS
More than just low cost flights worldwide
WITH UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR HIRE
Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service
LONDON Longhaul: 0171-938 3939
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400
First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444
BRISTOL Worldwide: 0117-929 9000
GLASGOW Worldwide: 0141-353 2224
MANCHESTER Worldwide: 0161-839 8669
First & Business Class: 0161-939 3434

FAR EAST AIR FARES
World Plus Ltd 0181 771 0218

interEUROPE
TRAVEL LTD ANNALS
0171 630 5185

SEAGULL TRAVELS 0171 625 7660

STA TRAVEL
WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL
0171 361 6161, 0171 361 6262, EUROSTAR: 0171 361 6143
117 Euston Road NW1, 10 Old Broad Street NW1, 11 Gower St W1, London
http://www.statravel.co.uk

TRAVEL DESIGNS
0171 636 1551
0171 636 2010

USA & CANADA
0161 766 5000

USA & WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS
0171 722 22 22
01722 722 222
01722 722 222

Jetworld
01273 277677

CHEAPEST FLIGHTS
0121 688 9898

TRAVEL Insurance
0990 133218 7 days

Unbeatable Worldwide Fares!

WORLDWIDE	WORLDWIDE	USA/CANADA	LONDON	AUSTRALIA from £655 RETURN
AUCKLAND £715	HONG KONG £485	FLORIDA £265	0181 506 5024	Includes 1 stop over in each direction and 1 internal flight in Australia.
BALI £595	JOHANNESBURG £395	LOS ANGELES £275	MANCHESTER 0990 280 028	FREE Annual Travel Insurance
BANGKOK £439	NAIROBI £415	LAS VEGAS £205	GLASGOW 0990 280 000	When you book 7 days in advance car hire on all fly-drive packages to the USA.
CAIRNS £715	PERTH £655	NEW YORK £275		Min. 2 people in a car or above. Conditions apply.
CAPE TOWN £435	SINGAPORE £525	SAN FRANCISCO £275		Officially approved by QANTAS
FUJ £695	SYDNEY £715	TORONTO £255		Fly from your local airport - prices & information on request.

Prices from London are low season return (exc taxes). Conditions and regional supplements apply.
Open Monday to Friday until 8pm. Sat & Sun 5.30pm.
BROCHURE HOTLINE 0990 338 338
FAX: 0181 533 7722
ONE STOP SHOP • Car Hire, Accommodation and Insurance

Cheaper cruises on the horizon

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

ONE OF Britain's fastest-growing holiday companies claims it can bring down the cost of cruising from British ports by more than 50 per cent — by cutting out travel agents.

Direct Holidays has chartered a 34-year-old, 33,000-tonne liner, renamed her the *Edinburgh Castle* and plans to run a programme of 15 cruises a year from Liverpool and Greenock from next April. Duncan Wilson, director of Direct Cruises, said that although prices for cruises from Mediterranean ports had fallen sharply since Thomson and Airtours moved into the market, prices for UK-based cruises were still far too high.

"One of the main reasons is that travel agents get up to 28 per cent commission when they sell a cruise," he says. "We sell direct, so at a stroke we can dramatically cut the costs. A cruise on a P&O ship which would cost £2,000 would be instantly £560 cheaper by missing out the travel agent. And when we use our size and efficiency we can get it even lower."

The *Edinburgh Castle* was originally the *Augusta Costa* and raised among the best equipped three-star liners in the world. She is now undergoing extensive refurbishment in Genoa and will be brought to Britain in time for next year's peak season.

Direct Holidays claims that the ship will be able to offer top quality service comparable to that provided by P&O on the soon-to-be-scrapped *Cinberra*.

Once the *Edinburgh Castle* is fully operational she will visit 44 different ports throughout the Mediterranean and the Canaries, and sail north to such newly popular destinations as Greenland and the Faeroe Isles.

Hot prices and cold-climate hols

Families pay more for late breaks

By TONY DAWE

FAMILIES searching for a package deal before the school holidays end in three weeks can still find a variety of places in the Mediterranean and the Canary Isles at a price.

A survey of travel agents reveals that families with two children will have to pay at least £1,250 and possibly as much as £2,000 for a fortnight's holiday in late August. A couple of smaller travel agents in London and Manchester had nothing for the next three weeks while several others could only offer holidays beginning next Thursday or Friday, which could eat into term time.

However, the picture is slightly brighter for would-be holidaymakers than the industry has painted. Tour operators had predicted that little would be available at the last minute because of a rush of bookings brought on by building society windfalls and poor weather in June.

"It's tight for late August but families will still be able to find holidays if they are flexible and don't expect bargains," said Tony Bennett, managing director of Going Places, a high street agency. The survey found that the best selection of late August packages were available in Glasgow and Newcastle. Both Going Places and Wallace Arnold Travel in Glasgow were able to offer family breaks at short notice for the last two weeks in August, but all were expensive compared with previous years.

Destinations included Corfu, the Costa del Sol, Majorca and Malta. A holiday in the Costa del Sol in a self-catering apartment, to be allocated on arrival, for two adults and two young children started at £329 an adult.

At A T Meys in Newcastle,

Thomson Square Deal packages to Ibiza and Gran Canaria for a fortnight's self-catering were available for £1,536 for a family with children of secondary-school age, including flights from the city's airport on Monday.

More attractively priced deals to Rhodes for £1,396 and Turkey for £1,256, both starting next Wednesday, were also on offer provided families were prepared to travel to Manchester and Teesside airports respectively.

The Edward Mellor Holiday Shop in Stockport offered various packages from Manchester airport for the next two weeks but most were expensive. Self-catering in two-star apartments in Samos, Greece, will cost £1,936 for a family with two school-age children and three-star self-catering in Ibiza will cost £2,096.

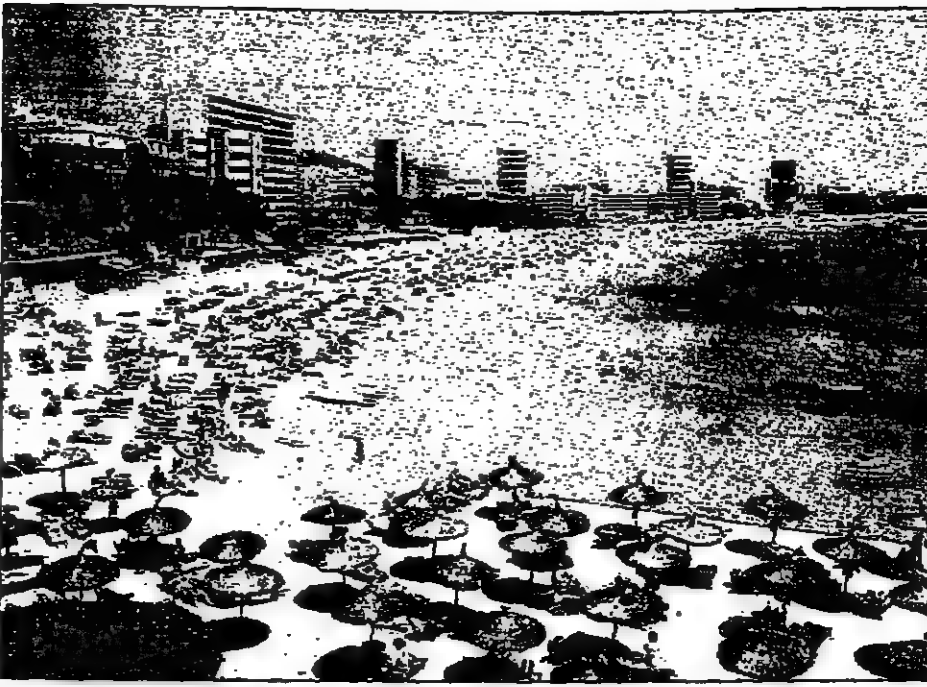
At Bowen Travel, Wolverhampton, Caroline Haywood, the manager, said: "If people really want to get away while the children are off school, they will pay the price."

At Eton Travel Agency in Wokingham, Berkshire, nothing was available for families before next Friday when a fortnight's half-board in a hotel in Majorca would cost a family with two children between £1,300 and £1,400.

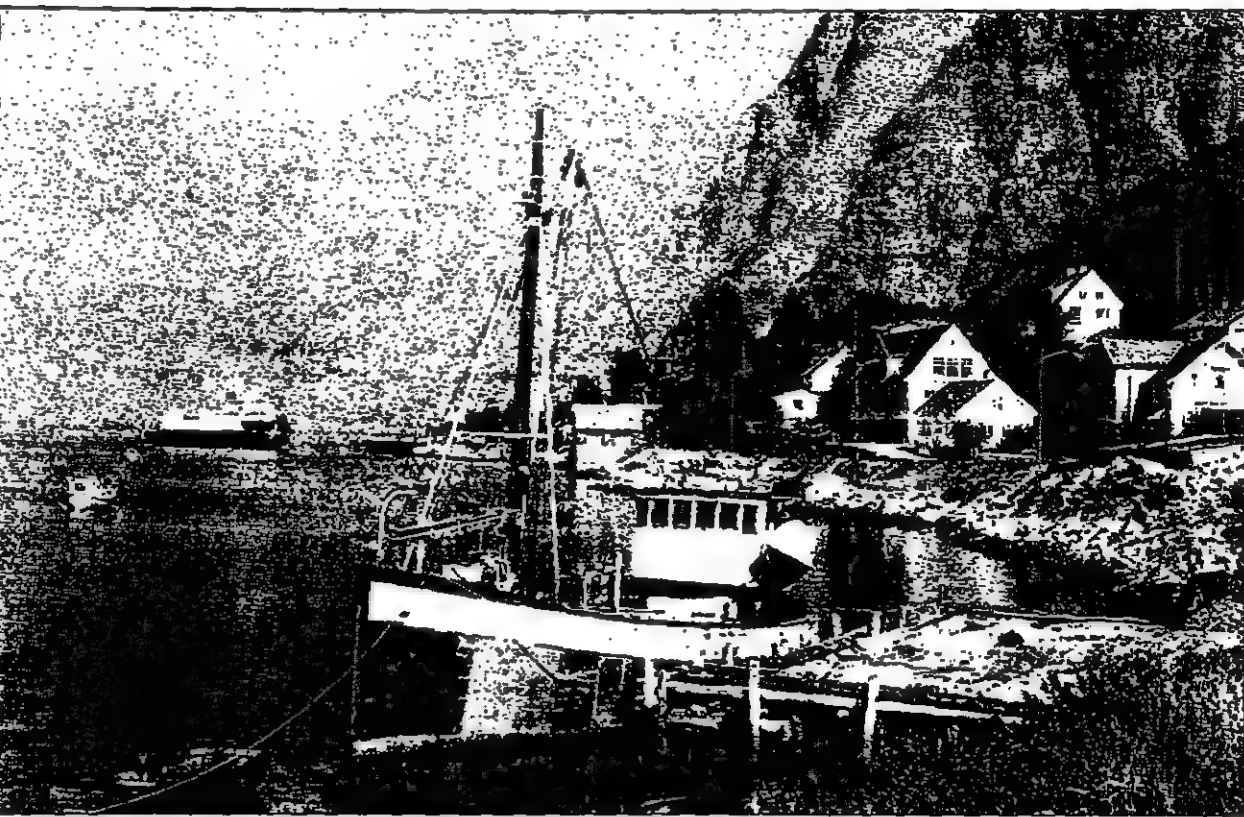
Southern Travel in Dorking, Surrey, could offer only a week's half-board in Majorca from August 23 for £1,716 with a flight from Gatwick.

At Luna Poly, Cardiff, no packages were available from the city's airport until next Wednesday when a fortnight's bed and breakfast accommodation in Rhodes would cost a family of four £1,396.

The agent's Bristol shop said: "All-inclusive accommodation is impossible for the remainder of the holidays."



Magaf beach, Majorca: breaks are available at short notice but are expensive



The fjords of Norway and other cool attractions are luring British tourists away from traditionally popular hotspots

The cool north is cashing in

By CATHERINE CHETWYND

AS BRITISH summers become hotter, holidaymakers are seeking to escape, rather than find, the sun. Thousands now head either for the cool of the mountains or the icecaps of the north, rather than the heat of the south.

For them, the Alps, Scandinavia and even the Arctic Circle are starting to take precedence over traditional haunts such as the Greek islands, the South of France and Italy. Mike Rigby, regional manager UK and Ireland for Braathens, the Norwegian airline, says that even in July bookings were up 16 per cent on last year.

Tour operators have also been noticing unexpected demand. Colin Trigger, managing director of Scantours, the specialist operator to Scandinavia, says evidence that Britons are wanting to move northwards, away from the heat, is strong.

"Traditionally," he says, "the market for Norway and northern Europe is dead by August. This year we are taking a lot of bookings every day and there is a big difference. We are seeing interest at February levels."

There have also been inquiries about Iceland and Spitzbergen because of its nearness to the North Pole.

Mr Trigger says that Scandinavia is well suited to changes in holidaymakers' requirements as tourists become more adventurous and more restless, spending an average of three nights in an area, then moving to another, and often seeking less obvious destinations. "Certainly," he adds, "we are bowing along in August, when we would normally expect to be dealing only with city-break bookings, not package arrangements."

Christine Ball of Travel-scene says that despite the stronger pound, sterling packages to Scandinavia and Iceland are not the cheapest, and it can be expensive once you get there. "Despite that," she says, "these destinations remain popular, and we have had interest in late bookings."

This is also true of Saga Holidays, whose cruises to the Arctic are now booked solid. Because packages are aimed at older travellers, bookings are usually made well in advance. But a spokeswoman says: "We have had a number of late bookings to cooler areas such as Scandinavia and the Alps."

Jellyfish sting English swimmers

By NICK NUTTALL



Compass jellyfish: Beware my sting

MILLIONS of stinging jellyfish that have drifted towards packed beaches this summer have prompted safety experts to warn bathers to take special care during the hot weather.

Scores of people swimming off East Anglia have been stung by large numbers of compass jellyfish, so called because of their chocolate, V-shaped markings which ancient mariners thought resembled those on a ship's compass. The creatures have been making people sick for up to 48 hours, and a few victims have been taken to hospital.

The compass, *Chrysaora hyscellosa*, is common in the Atlantic, North Sea and the Channel. But numbers off the East Coast have been exceptional this summer. Bernie Gray, a beachguard at Gorleston-on-Sea, near Great Yarmouth, says: "I have never seen as many as have been here in the past three weeks."

Dr Paul Cornelius, head of the

Guidaria (relating to certain invertebrates characterised by having stinging structures) research programme at the Natural History Museum, said there were several species of jellyfish around the British Isles, some of which sting, some of which are harmless. Even the compass can be unpredictable, with some being stingers and others not.

Few British jellyfish are really dangerous, but even mild stings can bother some swimmers, especially if they are sensitive to bee, hornet or wasp stings. A jellyfish sting can trigger a condition known as anaphylactic shock, which causes breathing difficulties and boil-like rashes.

The lion's mane, *Cyanea capillata*, can be found from the Bristol Channel, up to the West Coast of Scotland, and down to East Anglia. It has a reddish sting and is about 3in across, with thousands of fine tentacles. "It stings like a nettle, but some people experience a far worse reaction," Dr Cornelius says.

The moon jellyfish, *Aurelia aurita*, has four magenta hoops and is generally harmless.

Related to the lion's mane is *Cyanea lamarckii*. It is smaller and blue in colour and "stings very gently". It is found in the same range as the lion's mane, as is the harmless football jellyfish, *Rhizostoma pulmo*, an off-white variety that swims under the surface and can weigh up to 30kg.

One of the most fearsome, but rarely sighted, creatures is the Portuguese man-of-war — not a jellyfish at all, but a colony of small creatures with huge numbers of tentacles — that from time to time pitches up from the Azores. It can measure 10in across and its sting has been known to kill on occasion.

● A tiny freshwater jellyfish, *Craspedausta sowerbii* — a non-stinging variety, with markings like a hot-cross bun — can be seen in the Thames near Teddington.

● Dr Thomas Stuttaford, page 16

Imports threaten rare animals

By TONY DAWE

TOURISTS heading for exotic holiday destinations are being warned against buying souvenirs that could threaten certain wild plants and animals with extinction.

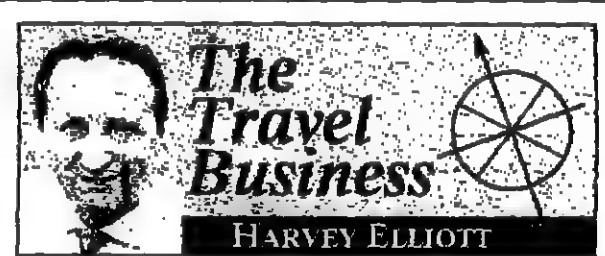
The World Wide Fund for Nature advised this week that the top ten long-haul destinations, identified by Association of British Travel Agents' surveys, all contain endangered wildlife and that "careless purchases" could boost illegal or damaging trade in them.

The fund has produced a Buyer Beware! list to guide tourists through bazaars, markets and airport shops abroad. Top of the list is Thailand, where tourists are warned against buying live orchid plants and ivory carvings. Visitors may be prosecuted for bringing home the plants, but can buy cut flowers grown in nurseries. It says the carvings, on sale at Bangkok airport, could come from the highly endangered Asian elephant.

Tourists heading for America's Old West are told: "Do not be tempted by wall hangings displaying the feathers of wild birds. All native wild birds are protected in the United States; possessing even a feather is illegal."

It points out that failure to obtain a permit for certain snakeskin boots or lizard-skin belts could result in Customs impounding your souvenir. The fund asks tourists not to buy sea-turtle shells in The Gambia or tortoiseshell jewellery in the Caribbean. It also says that permits are required to bring home some encased butterflies from Malaysia and products made from Canadian walrus tusks.

James Martin-Jones, head of conservation policy at WWF-UK, says: "As people travel further afield, they face an increasing variety of souvenirs made from endangered species. It is imperative that they do not contribute to the demise of these species by unwittingly getting caught up in the illegal wildlife trade."



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

Compensation lottery chaos

How much compensation will you or your relatives receive if you are injured or killed in an air crash?

Millions of people are flying around the globe with not the slightest idea of the extent of cover provided by their airline for personal injury or death.

An accident compensation is little short of a scandal. Everything depends on which airline you fly with, which government has signed various international agreements and which route you are using.

The airlines, through the International Air Transport Association (IATA), are trying to sort things out. But there is much still to be done.

British Airways became one of the first carriers to implement an IATA-sponsored agreement to abolish legal limits on air accident compensation payments. British Midland has not signed the agreement but has implemented it. The carrier is now covered by an insurance policy providing unlimited damages.

Yet the victims of last week's Korean Airlines (KAL) crash on Guam will be limited to compensation of about £140,000 (£88,000); even though the airline agreed to abolish the limit it has not yet received government approval to do so.

To understand how this mess developed, you have to look back nearly 70 years, when, in 1929, the Warsaw Convention limited compensation to \$10,000 per passenger. This limit remained in force until 1955, when The Hague Protocol doubled it.

The United States then began worrying about airlines that might be carrying its citizens and pressed air-

lines to adopt the 1966 Montreal Agreement, which set a compensation limit of \$75,000 per person for all flights to or from America.

As the number of international airlines grew, so did the realisation that international agreements should cover other parts of the world. So, from 1969, many governments, including the UK, approved a new limit of 100,000 Special Drawing Rights — a reserve currency operated by the International Monetary Fund, equivalent to about \$140,000.

Still this was considered insufficient, particularly by the newly wealthy nations of the Far East. In 1992 Japanese airlines unilaterally waived all limits in a break-through move.

In 1995, IATA also voluntarily decided to waive the limits and wrote its own agreement, the Intercontinental Agreement on Passenger Liability. All 256 member airlines were asked to sign. So far only 90 have done so. That agreement, however, binds airlines only to "take action to waive the limitation of liability..." and not actually to implement it. Only 55 have signed the implementation agreement.

Meanwhile, the US Government steadfastly refuses to rescind the Montreal Agreement, fearing that if it did so, American citizens who flew on airlines that have not signed up to the new one would not be covered even by the Montreal accord.

Action is urgently needed to give passengers the comfort of knowing that, in the event of a disaster, they or their relatives will be adequately and quickly compensated, whichever airline they are using.

Airlines charge for oxygen

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

A YOUNG WOMAN suffering from cystic fibrosis — a disease that makes breathing difficult — was charged £500 by Singapore Airlines to use oxygen. The charge is among the highest recorded by consumer groups and a medical charity, which have now launched a campaign to shame airlines into dropping charges for oxygen.

Many airlines charge £200 per round trip, and claim that it costs much more than that to have the equipment available on board. Some charge only a small fee; others nothing.

Helen Thomas, 24, of West London, had booked a return flight to Australia last year, well in advance. She suffers from cystic fibrosis, but the effects are slight and there was no indication that she might need oxygen.

Anne, her mother, said: "Her condition deteriorated, and she was told she would need oxygen on a flight." Singapore Airlines said she would have to pay a further £500. With everything booked and arranged, she had no option but to borrow the money and pay up.

Singapore Airlines said yesterday that its policy was to charge half the cost of a normal fare. A spokesman said: "It is not the use of the oxygen, as such, but the use of a seat. We have to secure the cylinder next to the passenger."

Don't take Disney for a ride

By DAVID CHURCHILL

DISNEYLAND is the latest victim of the growing American hobby of suing for alleged injuries or other claims.

A Californian judge last week gave the go-ahead for a legal action — which Disney is contesting — by Billie Jean Matay, a grandmother who claims that her grandchildren were traumatised when they were taken behind the scenes and saw Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck without their costume heads. The family had been taken backstage after a robbery in the car park.

This came after a similar lawsuit in which a family claimed damages for the trauma suffered by their four-year-old, who, when taken backstage, was said to have been terrified at seeing the characters without their heads because the breathing and cooling devices made

them look like skeletons. The family claimed more than \$1 million in damages, and Disney eventually agreed an out-of-court settlement, largely because the family had initially been taken backstage after having been falsely accused of shoplifting.

The Disneyland park at Anaheim, California, is estimated to receive one big lawsuit a week, with about 100 cases active at any one time. (The figures are similar for Walt Disney World, in Florida.) But David Koenig, a former Disneyland employee who monitors the court cases, says fewer than one in 20 has a chance of reaching court and winning damages.

"It's difficult to beat Disney in court," he said. "Unlike many other large corporations, it won't settle suits just to make them go away, no matter how Mickey Mouse the claims may be."



Most legal actions involve allegations of personal injury, with the Autopia car ride and Matterhorn Bobsled rollercoaster rides the source of the highest number of claims.

"Many victims orchestrate their own accident," Mr Koenig says. "They'll stage a fall, or deliberately step in front of a streetcar."

But litigious American visitors seem willing to sue for any reason, however unlikely their chances of success. One man claimed that the crowds at the afternoon parades had traumatised his family, while another parent alleged that the Winnie-the-Pooh character had hit her nine-year-old daughter in the face. The full-time Disney legal team successfully proved by bringing the character into court — that the costume's arms were too close to the ground to have caused the injury.

One legal action that succeeded in the long term was initiated by two men, Andrew Elder, 19, and Shawn Elliott, 17, who accused Disney of sexual discrimination when they were prevented from dancing together in the Videopolis arena. Eventually, Disneyland was forced to end any sexual discrimination

clothes and walking boots at the resort."

On August 15, members of another British party arrived at Munich to discover that their luggage had also vanished. BA offered overnight bags and 250 marks (about £87) per passenger.

Bags have also been separated from passengers on flight transfers. The domino effect has caused lost-luggage chaos at Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen.

A BA spokesman said that the backlog — 2,000 misplaced bags were still waiting at Heathrow to be reunited with their owners last Friday — had now been cleared. A new improved system was due to start at the airport next month.

Hold on to your boots and baggage

By RONALD GRIBBLE

HOLIDAYMAKERS bound for walking holidays abroad are to be told to check in at Heathrow wearing their boots and to carry a change of clothing in their hand luggage. So many bags have gone missing at the airport that one tour operator is to warn its clients to take essential luggage on to the plane with them, rather than put it in the hold.

Janine Graysmark, marketing manager of London-based HF Holidays, which specialises in guided walking tours, said: "As a result of the feedback we have had from customers who have lost luggage on Heathrow to Munich flights, we are advising clients to wear their boots and

carry a change of clothing with them."

On July 26 John and Kit Adlington from Oxford flew from Heathrow for a 14-day mountain-walking holiday in Austria, only to find on arrival in Munich that their cases had disappeared. British Airways offered them an overnight pack containing T-shirts and toothpaste. The luggage was delivered to their hotel at Mayrhofen five days later. Mr Adlington, a university lecturer, said: "Having no luggage for a week is bad enough, but when it finally did arrive the contents was wet and stained. We had to buy new

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

- Spain special: Leslie Thomas in Grazelema
- Mary Gold in Mauritius
- America: Sarah Anderson in New Mexico
- Jill Crawshaw's selects autumn breaks

POLAND
10 Day Holiday with Half Board
£129
To Zakopane in the Beautiful Tatras Mountains
New Millennium Holidays
Brochure: 0121 705 4431

FOOTBALL

Brighton face an uphill task with no fixed abode

By Nick Szczepanik

MOST Nationwide League third division clubs would be pleased to cap an unbeaten run of pre-season friendly matches by drawing with an FA Carling Premiership team — all the more so if, like Brighton and Hove Albion, they only escaped relegation to the Q&N Vauxhall Conference on the final day of last season.

However, Brighton's game with Crystal Palace 12 days ago at Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium, which the club will be sharing for at least the early stages of this season, was a glum occasion.

Whereas 4,000 turned up at the Seagulls' former home, the now-demolished Goldstone Ground, last time the traditional rivals met in a friendly, fewer than 200 made the 70-mile trip from South Coast to Medway.

This is especially worrying bearing in mind that Brighton's survival last term depended almost entirely on their form in front of large, vociferous home crowds.

"I half-expected it," Steve Gritt, the manager, said. "It

was only a friendly. I hope that if we get off to a reasonable start, people will come and support the team; but the fans have made it clear that they don't want to go to Gillingham."

Further proof was forthcoming last night, when Brighton hosted Leyton Orient at the Priestfield Stadium in the first leg of their Coca-Cola Cup first-round tie.

The Gillingham ground-sharing arrangement, instituted on Brighton's behalf by Bill Archer, the chairman, and David Bellotti, the chief executive, who sold the Goldstone Ground to pay off debts estimated at £6 million, has met with scorn from most supporters. Already, the Brighton Independent Supporters Association has called for a boycott of matches there.

"Attendances may top 1,000 — if the team do well," Ian Hart, co-editor of the fanzine *Gull's Eye*, said. "It's getting there; it's the cost. Who's going to take a child to Gillingham to see their first game? Millwall would be different. Craw-

ley even more different." Millwall's New Den and Crawley Town's Broadfield Stadium in Sussex — just — but beset by planning problems have been proposed as alternative "home" grounds by a consortium which hopes shortly to finalise a Football Association-backed takeover of the club.

It will be submitting an application to transfer to Millwall at the Football League board meeting on August 28. Plans are also in hand for a new permanent home in Brighton.

The takeover itself remains subject to apparently interminable delays. First announced on April 22, after a series of prolonged meetings at the Centre for Dispute Resolution, it has yet to be completed, and Archer's annual holiday has caused a further two-week postponement.

Nevertheless, Dick Knight, the consortium leader and club chairman-elect, played down concerns. "Some issues arose late and it's vital that we get these right," he said. "We haven't come this far in the legal process to fall at the final hurdle."

One consequence is that Bellotti, whose attendance at matches provoked violent demonstrations last season, will remain a presence in the directors' box.

"I know it's frustrating for the fans to start the new season this way, but the incoming directors are unanimous that Mr Bellotti will not be leaving the club," Knight said. "Understanding is required on all sides until we can complete this process."

Gritt has been unable to strengthen the team, despite promises from Knight that he would have "£2 million to spend on players". With the old regime still technically in charge, those funds have not materialised.

"It would have been nice to bring in one or two new faces, but I wasn't able to," Gritt said. "I've been given a budget, and that went on re-signing existing players."

Brighton, 12 points adrift at the foot of the table when Gritt took over last December, wiped out the deficit without managing a single away win.

"We didn't get the results away that we deserved last season, and I've always maintained that. If we get one away win, we'll go on from there. We've got virtually 46 away games," Gritt said. "It's going to be difficult, but we've got to be positive and look towards this season now."



Whyte trains children in Sheffield. Bullying is banned in an attempt to bring the best out of the boys. Photograph: Trevor Smith

Whyte takes the fear out of football

Lawrie Madden talks to a man who believes many good, young prospects are being driven out of the game by ruthless coaches

If there is anything higher in your life than football, then go away from here. I don't want you," Channel 4 viewers heard Graham Rix, the former England youth team coach and now Chelsea's first-team coach, tell boys on a Youth Training Scheme in *Football Dreams*, a fly-on-the-wall documentary last month.

Rix's dressing-room humiliation came after the youths had suffered a 5-1 defeat by a more mature South side.

Some 200 miles north from Chelsea, Eddie Whyte, the Scotland coach, spends his Saturday mornings at Sheffield University's training ground with a hundred children of school age, using a football philosophy light years away in content and style from that of the professional game, as aired by Rix.

As Whyte explains: "The No 1 objective for kids, especially the young ones between four and six, is enthusiasm and enjoyment so that they want to play football instead of going home and sitting in front of the computer."

Whyte steers children rather than dictates to them. At seven, each child is given a self-assessment sheet covering all areas of football, from shooting and dribbling to

passing and heading. Whyte observes each child and talks to them individually, and together with them works out a plan to improve their individual skills.

Each weekly session comprises one and a half hours' training plus 30 minutes free play. Whyte said: "We don't want young children under pressure. They are all young individuals who have separate needs and develop at different rates. We want them to learn by their mistakes and take away fear by removing winning and losing in their formative years."

In attempting to uncover and nurture the next crop of young talent, Whyte conscripts parental support. On enrolment, all parents are given a code of conduct sheet, which includes the encouragement of home practice. Insults and sarcastic comments, so evident in *Football Dreams* and on the sidelines of League matches, are forbidden, as is shouting from the touchline.

Whyte stresses the importance of encouragement rather than criticism, because poor attitude, rather than the lack

of skill, is the main reason why so many YTS players fail to become professionals.

This emphasis on self-reliance and discipline from an early age would, according to Whyte, help with the dramatic transition from non-League schoolboy football to professional level.

At many professional clubs, off-the-field discipline comes in the form of bedroom duties. This utilitarian regime proved difficult for some of the Chelsea YTS recruits. As Whyte said: "In Britain, the sudden discipline can be a shock for the lads if they have not been brought up with it."

Whyte's philosophy has developed from seven years' coaching in Europe at Borussia Mönchengladbach, Standard Liège and MVB Maastricht, a feeder club for PSV Eindhoven.

Whyte believes that British football is 20 years behind Holland and France but that there are glimmers of hope. "Glenn Hoddle is trying to place more emphasis on skill, rather than strength and size, and that is important for under-15 internationals where

until they sign as professionals."

The Football Association has taken on board many aspects of the Continental experience and is pushing hard towards greater involvement of football clubs with young children. Whyte believes that this system works well on the continent but, unless there is a radical re-education among coaches at professional clubs, it will be counter-productive.

Whyte said: "Young players are under too much pressure at professional clubs. They are pushed too hard and are not developing. They lose confidence. You can see what is going on through the children's minds at these clubs. This is their big chance and just one in 20 may be taken on while the rest are demoralised."

The demoralised feeling is something that Whyte himself had to deal with as a youngster. A premature football career was brought to an end at the age of 14, when he suffered badly injured cartilages to both knees. Like most boys, he only ever wanted to be a professional footballer.

He had to endure this dramatic experience while he saw his best friends join top professional clubs.

Arsenal pair given three-match bans

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PATRICK VIEIRA and Matthew Upson, of Arsenal, have been suspended for three matches after the Football Association received official notification of their dismissals against PSV Eindhoven in a pre-season match in Holland on July 30.

The bans start on August 25, which means that they will miss Arsenal's north London derby game with Tottenham Hotspur five days later and two other matches. But Vieira could still escape the suspension after the FA agreed to forward video evidence to their Dutch counterparts.

Arsenal produced film of the match believing that Vieira was unjustly treated, and Steve Doubles, an FA spokesman, said: "We have forwarded it to the Dutch FA, who can now show it to the referee and ask him if he thought he made a mistake in sending off Vieira. If he says he was wrong, Vieira's ban will be lifted. But at present both suspensions are in place."

Arsenal decided not to appeal in the case of Upson, the 18-year-old England Youth player, even though the club

was originally under the impression that the referee had punished the wrong player by mistake.

Both dismissals came in the dying moments of a match that Arsenal lost 1-0, and the suspensions are further bad news on top of the £50,000 suspended fine which the FA imposed on Arsenal last Friday over their poor disciplinary record last season.

Even worse, Tony Adams, the captain, who missed the first two matches of the season because of a suspension for his dismissal against Derby County in last season's final match, has suffered another injury setback. His plan to play for the reserves yesterday against Charlton Athletic at Highbury had to be scrapped when he felt more discomfort from the rib he damaged playing against Sittingbourne, the non-League club, in a pre-season game last week.

It was little consolation that the latest of manager Arsène Wenger's foreign signings — Liberian striker Christopher Wreh — scored on his debut against Charlton before Michael Black's goal secured a 2-1 win.

Redfearn makes his mark at 32

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

NEIL REDFEARN, the Barnsley midfielder, is what is known in the trade as a "journeyman". He began his career as an apprentice with Nottingham Forest and has since played for Bolton Wanderers, Lincoln City, Doncaster Rovers, Crystal Palace, Watford and Oldham Athletic.

Now, Redfearn, 32, finds himself playing at the highest level after 15 years as a professional, and is making up for lost time. He scored Barnsley's goal in the 2-1 home defeat against West Ham United on Saturday — his club's FA Carling Premiership debut — and again proved his accuracy in the 1-0 victory against Crystal Palace — promoted with Barnsley from the Nationwide League first division — at Selhurst Park on Tuesday night.

"Neil has never played in the Premiership and I haven't got a clue why," Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, said. "I really can't understand why no one has picked him up before. He's got a fantastic strike-rate from midfield, can shoot with either foot and is never scared to miss."

Redfearn's goal against Pal-

ace, for whom he made 57 league appearances in the late Eighties, arrived in the 56th minute, a left-footed drive from 30 yards that swirled past Kevin Miller, the Palace goalkeeper.

"It would have graced any game," Wilson said, "but he's done it so often before, it didn't really surprise me. He scored 19 times last season."

Palace's delight at beating Everton 2-1 at Goodison Park on Saturday was short-lived, although they did enough to have at least gained a draw.

In an entertaining match, Attilio Lombardo, the former Juventus striker, missed one of Palace's best chances when he narrowly failed to connect with Dean Gordon's cross.

In the Coca-Cola Cup first round, Manchester City slipped to an ignominious 1-0 first-leg defeat against Blackpool, the second division side, at Bloomfield Road. Andy Preece, the former Palace forward, broke the deadlock with a goal in the 73rd minute, presenting City with an awkward task in the return at Maine Road.

Queens Park Rangers, having invested heavily during the close-season, face an even stiffer test against Wolver-

hampton Wanderers after losing 2-0 at Loftus Road. Steve Proggatt opened the scoring in the thirteen minute with a long-range shot that Lee Harper, the QPR goalkeeper, failed to hold, and Mixu Paatelainen, Wolves' new £200,000 signing from Bolton, added the second near the end.

York City again demonstrated their liking of the competition, in which they have beaten Manchester United and Everton in recent years, when they defeated Port Vale, the first division side, 2-1 at Vale Park. Although they trailed 1-0 to a goal from Lee

Mills, Gary Bull and Steve Bushell completed their recovery, Bushell scoring in the last minute.

Stockport County, Coca-Cola Cup semi-finalists last season, appear unlikely to scale such heights this time around. They were beaten 4-2 by Mansfield Town, the third division side, at Field Mill, with Iysekend Christie registering a hat-trick in a four minute spell either side of half-time.

Cambridge United, also from the third division, gave West Bromwich Albion an uncomfortable 90 minutes at the Abbey Stadium. Paul Peschisolidi, the Canada striker, gave West Bromwich an early lead but Cambridge equalised through Michael Kyd 12 minutes into the second half and would have taken a lead to the Hawthorns for the second leg had they displayed better finishing.

Portsmouth were held 2-2 by Peterborough United in an often-heated encounter at London Road. Scott Houghton, of Peterborough, and David Waterman were sent off in the eightieth minute after a bout of fistfuffs, shortly before Martin Carruthers cancelled out Portsmouth's 2-1 advantage.

Mills, Gary Bull and Steve Bushell completed their recovery, Bushell scoring in the last minute.

Stockport County, Coca-Cola Cup semi-finalists last season, appear unlikely to scale such heights this time around. They were beaten 4-2 by Mansfield Town, the third division side, at Field Mill, with Iysekend Christie registering a hat-trick in a four minute spell either side of half-time.

Cambridge United, also from the third division, gave West Bromwich Albion an uncomfortable 90 minutes at the Abbey Stadium. Paul Peschisolidi, the Canada striker, gave West Bromwich an early lead but Cambridge equalised through Michael Kyd 12 minutes into the second half and would have taken a lead to the Hawthorns for the second leg had they displayed better finishing.

Portsmouth were held 2-2 by Peterborough United in an often-heated encounter at London Road. Scott Houghton, of Peterborough, and David Waterman were sent off in the eightieth minute after a bout of fistfuffs, shortly before Martin Carruthers cancelled out Portsmouth's 2-1 advantage.



Wilson: not surprised

FA charges Sinclair over shorts incident

ON SATURDAY, Frank Sinclair, the Chelsea defender, was so elated at scoring only his third goal in almost two years that he dropped his shorts in celebration at Highfield Road. Yesterday, the Football Association showed their lack of appreciation of the gesture by charging him with misconduct (Russell Kempson writes).

Sinclair's cheek came after he had given Chelsea a 1-0 lead against Coventry City on the opening day of the FA Carling Premiership season. Paul Dunne, the referee, handed out only a stern lecture. "I don't know why I did it," Sinclair said. "I was so excited, it was the first thing that came to me."

Road Gullie, his manager, said: "I hope Frank doesn't do it again." Sinclair has 14 days to request a personal hearing

but is likely to escape with no more than a fine.

Northern Ireland will play their group nine World Cup qualifying match against Albania on September 10 at a neutral venue. "Security in Albania has not sufficiently been restored," a spokesman for Fifa, the sport's world governing body, said yesterday.

The second stage of the 1996-97 Albanian league season was suspended in February after armed unrest in the country. It resumed only two weeks ago, as a six-team playoff.

Albania played their last two home World Cup fixtures — against Ukraine in March and Germany in April — in Granada, southern Spain. Fifa ruled that it was not safe to play in Tirana, the Albanian capital.

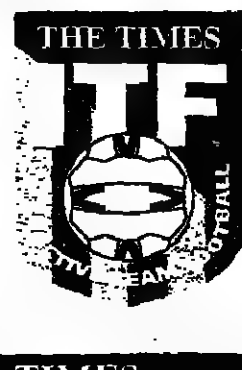
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS

UEFA CUP: Second qualifying round, first leg: FC Trol (Switz) 2 Celtic 1; Trabzonspor (Tur) 1 Dundee United 0; Jablonec (Cze) 1 Gornik (Sov) 1; Dynamo Minsk (Bel) 0; Liestad (Nor) 2; Alania Vladikavkaz (Russ) 2; Dinamo Dnepropetrovsk (Ukr) 1; Rostov Volgograd (Russ) 2; Odra Wroclaw (Pol) 0; HIF (Sov) 1; FC Brugge (Bel) 1; Rapid Vienna (Austria) 1; Bony Brio (Lith) 1; Ujman Dacia (Rum) 0; Krasnoe Don (Ukr) 1; Steyrer (Austria) 0; FC Ventspils (Lat) 1; Grasshopper Zurich (Switz) 3; Brann Bergen (Nor) 0; PAKK Salomaa (Fin) 5; Spartak (Moscow) 3; Ischia (Ita) 1; (Cro) 3; Malmo (Swe) 2; Andisect (Bel) 2; Vorskla Poltava (Ukr) 0; Nauchdov (Kazakh) 3; Veng Steyrer (Nor) 0; Arsenal Linasol (Cyp) 0; Mouscron (Bel) 0; Vejle (Den) 0; Hapoel Petah Tikva (Isr) 0; NK Rjesavski (Slo) 0; OFI Crete (Gr) 0.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Crystal Palace 0 Barnsley 1. COCA-COLA CUP: First round, first leg: Blackpool 1 Manchester City 0; Burnley 1; Bristol City 0; Bristol Rovers 0; Cambridge United 1; West Bromwich Albion 1; Cardiff 1; Southampton 1; Chelsea 2; Colchester 1; Luton 1; Crewe 2; Bury 3; Darlington 1; North County 1; Gillingham 0; Birmingham 1; Huddersfield 2; Bradford 1; Lincoln 1; Burnley 1; Macclesfield 0; Hull 0; Mansfield 4; Stockport 2; Northampton 2; Millers 1; Norwich 2; Barnet 1; Oldham 1; Garryh 0; Oxford United 2; Plymouth 0; Peterborough 2; Portsmouth 2; Port Vale 1; York 2; Queens Park Rangers 0; Wolverhampton 2; Reading 2; Swanssea 0; Rochdale 1; Stoke 2; Rotherham 1; Preston 3; Scarborough 0.

REWARDING TIMES
£100,000
to be won
playing ITF

For full details of how to play ITF, and the chance to win our £50,000 top prize, see next Tuesday's paper.



Celtic can thank Stubbs and Gould

HEINZ PEISCHL, the Innsbruck Tirol coach, said yesterday that the only thing which surprised him about Celtic's performance in their UEFA Cup second qualifying round first leg on Tuesday night was just how ordinary they were.

Peischl's side raced to a 2-0 lead within the first half-hour after Christian Mayrle twice found space behind the Celtic backline and scored each time. But Alan Stubbs's late free kick gave Celtic fresh heart for the return leg at Parkhead later this month.

Peischl said: "It was clear to me that last night was far from the best Celtic are

capable of playing. Their attitude seemed wrong at the beginning. They did not put us under anything like the pressure I expected them to and, but for a deflected goal our keeper could do nothing about. I did not look like scoring."

"I watched them lose to Hibernian at Easter Road and they were the same tactically there as they were against us — they had no new ideas to surprise me. We would have liked a third goal as 2-1 is a very different prospect to 2-0, but we can still win in Glasgow."

Peischl might have got his wish but Celtic goalkeeper Jonathan Gould de-

nied him with a fine save from Roland Kirchler's drive after sixty minutes.

Celtic head coach Wim Jansen said: "Jonathan made an important save at 2-0 which kept us in with a chance of recovery. The decision about whether to play him or Scott Marshall was not easy, but he played well in the last two games and the selection worked well for us."

Gould said: "If it had gone to 3-0 we know it would have been tough to turn around at Parkhead. Now we know that, if we can score an early goal, then we have a real chance of making it through."

Elvis fans by the thousand rock into town and get ready to go, man, go

The best-dressed road runners will be wearing something a bit special this weekend. The smartest will be sporting white jump suits emblazoned with gold embroidery, heavy rings on their fingers, bushy black stick-on sideburns, and perhaps even blue suede training shoes. For this Sunday sees the running of the annual Elvis Presley International five-kilometre road race.

Saturday is the twentieth anniversary of the death of Elvis and more than 100,000 mourners, musicians and impersonators are making a pilgrimage to Memphis, Tennessee, to pay homage to "the King". Among them will be four or five thousand runners — some of them highly-trained athletes, others fun-seeking joggers — who will line up in front of Presley's mansion, Graceland, to race around the roads where he lived.

The most eye-catching of them will be a strange scattering of Elvis lookalikes. Jeannie Townsend, the race organiser, said: "In our 5K, we traditionally get a number of runners who are dressed like Elvis. This year, with the twentieth anniversary, we're sure to get a whole lot more. It'll be quite a sight. If you run dressed like Elvis, you're sure to get a great reception from the crowd."

The entries for this annual run are up as never before and there should be more than 5,000 starters. For their entry fee (\$12 in advance, \$15 on race day), the entrants get an elaborate six-colour Elvis T-shirt.



shirt. "It's a real collector's item," Townsend said. "It has a picture of Elvis as a young man, with his Cadillac, his guitar, his motorbike and his airplane, all spinning on a gold record." For an extra \$20, the runners can also pick up a limited-edition race medalion.

The event is a great charity money-raiser. Last year, it raised more than \$40,000 for

'There is quite a problem with fake sideburns peeling off'

United Cerebral Palsy and, over the years, the race has drummed up more than \$600,000 for cerebral palsy charities.

"This year, for the first and only time in our 15 years, we're holding our race on a Sunday," Townsend said. The customary start is at 8am on the Saturday but, because the actual anniversary of Presley's death falls on Saturday, the

race is in danger of running into the annual candlelit vigil. This begins on Friday night outside the Presley mansion, where he is buried.

The vigil is certain to draw massive crowds this year and, all through the night and into Saturday morning, thousands will file silently up the Graceland driveway to Presley's graveside in the Meditation Garden. On Sunday morning, the race around Graceland will be closed to all traffic for the race.

The heat in Memphis in August is certain to be fierce and competitors may have to contend with some unusual difficulties. Apart from the fluid loss that comes from trying to run in a full Elvis outfit, there is also quite a problem with fake sideburns peeling off when the going gets hot.

Sunglasses, too, are unusual. Forget the expensive go-faster wraparound shades that were all the rage at the world athletics championships in Athens. On the starting line in Graceland, you need 70s-style aviator sunglasses — "as worn by the King".

At the feeding stations, as well as water and sports drinks, the runners will be urged on by the sound of Elvis singing. As the lookalikes staggered to the first water stop last year, they were greeted by the strains of *Don't Be Cruel*.

The race comes right at the end of Elvis Presley Week, and these days no city celebration is complete without its mass fun run. Events like the London Marathon have done a great job at harmonising competitive sport with entertainment and mass participation. Like rock'n'roll, road running has its highly-paid stars, but anyone can join in and have a go.

In the Flora London Marathon last year, for instance, there were rhinos running alongside Dennis the Menace, Big Ben, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Batman and girls in Wonderbras. Anyone who thinks these runners do not earn their charity money the hard way should talk to Billy Wilson. He has completed five London marathons and recorded his fastest time while running as the back end of a pantomime horse. "By three miles," he



Hundreds of lookalikes are expected to take part

said, "I was dehydrated, exhausted and bleeding from where the straps of the costume were chafing me." But he and his son made it, performing an equine cursey as a mark of respect to the Queen when they passed Buckingham Palace.

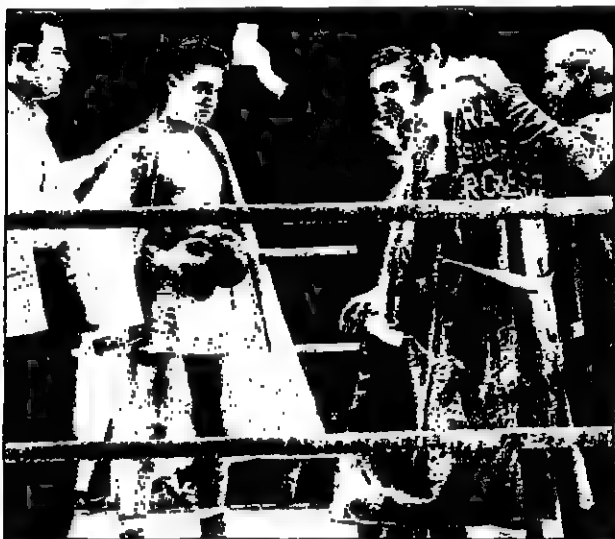
There have been thousands of reported sightings of Elvis over the past 20 years, by people who refuse to believe he is dead. On Sunday you will have a hard time convincing some that Elvis is not alive and well and out there pounding around the road race.

It is unlikely. There is little

evidence that Elvis ever took much exercise off stage. He is said to have liked the odd game of racketball and, in *Kid Galahad*, made in 1962, he played the part of a novice boxer who fights and sings his way to the top.

Film critics said that Elvis looked "surprisingly paunchy" when stripped for his role as a boxer. So, if Elvis is out there on Sunday, don't look for a skinny guy in shorts and vest. He will be in a jumpsuit, moving with rhythm, and running like a king.

JOHN BRYANT



Elvis in a rare sporting role in *Kid Galahad* (1962)

SAILING: BRITAIN FIFTH AS AMERICANS CLAIM FIRST ADMIRAL'S CUP WIN FOR 28 YEARS

United States restored to head of the fleet

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

IT HAD been a long time coming and, almost to the end of a dramatic day in Plymouth harbour, the outcome was in doubt, but the United States yesterday captured the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup, the unofficial world championship of offshore sailing, for the first time since 1969.

After a charge by Australia

on Tuesday night, the decisive moment came in a desperately close finish for the ILC 40 fleet, which parked up in almost calm conditions off the breakwater at the entrance to Plymouth harbour early yesterday. As is so often the case, the leaders watched the laggards of the fleet creep up — including the American boat *MK Café*, skippered by John Kollus, who had been in sixth place for much of the race. Kollus had the momentum and simply sailed round his rivals to finish second behind the Germans on *Pinia*.

The finish was dispiriting for Italy, whose ILC 40, *Brava Q8*, had led her class for most of the race and looked to be the cornerstone of a back-to-back win in the championship, before being demoted to sixth in her class. While the Italians lost 16 points to finish third

overall behind Germany, the United States gained 16 points to take a hold on the title that even a sixth place for their Mumm 36, *Jameson*, a few hours later could not shake.

The United States, who became the first team since Great Britain in 1989 to go into a Fastnet leading and hold on from there, built victory on their big boat, *Flash Gordon 3*, skippered by Ken Read and designed by Bruce Farr. She performed better than any other boat in the championship overall, finishing second behind the Italians in the Fastnet.

Don Genitempo, the United States team manager, was relieved after having spent the past two days worrying that the ghosts of two years ago, when the Americans blew their chance in the Fastnet, were returning to haunt him.

"What a wonderful end, what a wonderful relief to have finally won this thing after 28 years," he said. "Every event has its highs and lows — when you win it, you can breathe a sigh of relief."

The Britain team finished fifth overall, the equivalent of two Fastnet places behind Australia and just two points ahead of New Zealand, whose collapse from second overall going into the last race set the scene for an American win. But Britain can take heart from a respectable performance after finishing in last place two years ago.

The best feature of this time was the effort by John Merricks, Ian Walker and their crew on board *Tim Barrett's Mumm 36, Bradamante*. Belying their limited experience in keel boats and offshore racing, Merricks and Walker, ably assisted by David Howlett, James Stagg and others, dominated their class in the Fastnet to finish as the top 36-footer over the nine-race series. Only *Flash Gordon* beat her to the top spot in the regatta.

While their big boat, *Corum Indulgence*, did well for much of the regatta under Chris Law, the ILC 40, *Easy Oars*, helmed by Andy Beadsworth, was the weak link, failing to match the speed of the newer boats in her class. After finishing third in the class in the Fastnet, however, her owner, Tony Buckingham, got off the boat not in the least bit disheartened and keen to have another go in 1999. "I love it with a passion," Buckingham said. "We've got to win the Admiral's Cup. I'm stuck in and I've got the scars to prove it."



Genitempo holds aloft the cup as the Americans celebrate

Standings, page 38

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

KRIS

(c) A Malayan dagger of Javanese origin with a long wavy blade. The Javanese word, *Kris*, is derived from the Sanskrit word *Kris* (to cut). It is the Sultan of Kelantan. He carries a kris (a dagger) made from an elephant tusk.

TRUNNION

(b) Each of a pair of opposite gudgeons on the sides of a cannon upon which it is pivoted in its carriage. Horatio Nelson, dispatch, 1794: "The Agamemnon's two 24-pounders are both ruined, one split up to the rings, and the other with the trunnion knocked off so much that it is useless for shot."

KROMO

(b) The polite form of Javanese, used by those of lower status when addressing social superiors. T. S. Raffles, *History*, 1827: "Nearly half of the words in the vernacular have their corresponding term in *Besa-Kromo*, without a knowledge of which no one dares address superiors."

KRILLUM

(a) A proprietary name of various mixtures of polyacrylate salts and other carboxylated polymers manufactured as soil conditioners for improving the texture of the soil and its ability to resist erosion. *Science News Letter*, 1952: "The soil improver chemical will come on the market soon under the name of Krillum."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bf6! Bxf6 2 Qd7! Kxh7 3 Rh1! mating.

PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE FOR UK ONLY. SEND SAE FOR DETAILS AND PRICES OF THE TIMES ATLAS OR MAIL ORDER CHARGES APPLY.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE TIMES CROSSWORD BOOKS. The Times Crossword Book 1 (1996) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 2 (1997) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 3 (1998) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 4 (1999) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 5 (2000) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 6 (2001) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 7 (2002) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 8 (2003) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 9 (2004) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 10 (2005) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 11 (2006) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 12 (2007) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 13 (2008) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 14 (2009) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 15 (2010) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 16 (2011) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 17 (2012) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 18 (2013) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 19 (2014) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 20 (2015) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 21 (2016) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 22 (2017) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 23 (2018) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 24 (2019) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 25 (2020) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 26 (2021) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 27 (2022) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 28 (2023) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 29 (2024) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 30 (2025) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 31 (2026) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 32 (2027) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 33 (2028) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 34 (2029) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 35 (2030) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 36 (2031) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 37 (2032) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 38 (2033) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 39 (2034) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 40 (2035) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 41 (2036) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 42 (2037) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 43 (2038) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 44 (2039) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 45 (2040) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 46 (2041) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 47 (2042) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 48 (2043) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 49 (2044) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 50 (2045) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 51 (2046) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 52 (2047) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 53 (2048) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 54 (2049) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 55 (2050) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 56 (2051) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 57 (2052) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 58 (2053) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 59 (2054) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 60 (2055) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 61 (2056) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 62 (2057) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 63 (2058) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 64 (2059) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 65 (2060) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 66 (2061) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 67 (2062) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 68 (2063) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 69 (2064) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 70 (2065) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 71 (2066) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 72 (2067) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 73 (2068) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 74 (2069) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 75 (2070) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 76 (2071) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 77 (2072) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 78 (2073) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 79 (2074) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 80 (2075) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 81 (2076) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 82 (2077) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 83 (2078) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 84 (2079) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 85 (2080) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 86 (2081) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 87 (2082) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 88 (2083) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 89 (2084) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 90 (2085) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 91 (2086) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 92 (2087) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 93 (2088) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 94 (2089) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 95 (2090) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 96 (2091) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 97 (2092) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 98 (2093) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 99 (2094) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 100 (2095) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 101 (2096) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 102 (2097) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 103 (2098) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 104 (2099) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 105 (2100) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 106 (2101) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 107 (2102) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 108 (2103) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 109 (2104) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 110 (2105) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 111 (2106) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 112 (2107) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 113 (2108) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 114 (2109) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 115 (2110) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 116 (2111) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 117 (2112) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 118 (2113) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 119 (2114) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 120 (2115) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 121 (2116) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 122 (2117) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 123 (2118) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 124 (2119) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 125 (2120) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 126 (2121) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 127 (2122) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 128 (2123) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 129 (2124) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 130 (2125) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 131 (2126) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 132 (2127) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 133 (2128) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 134 (2129) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 135 (2130) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 136 (2131) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 137 (2132) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 138 (2133) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 139 (2134) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 140 (2135) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 141 (2136) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 142 (2137) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 143 (2138) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 144 (2139) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 145 (2140) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 146 (2141) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 147 (2142) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 148 (2143) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 149 (2144) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 150 (2145) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 151 (2146) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 152 (2147) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 153 (2148) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 154 (2149) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 155 (2150) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 156 (2151) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 157 (2152) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 158 (2153) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 159 (2154) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 160 (2155) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 161 (2156) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 162 (2157) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 163 (2158) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 164 (2159) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 165 (2160) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 166 (2161) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 167 (2162) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 168 (2163) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 169 (2164) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 170 (2165) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 171 (2166) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 172 (2167) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 173 (2168) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 174 (2169) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 175 (2170) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 176 (2171) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 177 (2172) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 178 (2173) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 179 (2174) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 180 (2175) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 181 (2176) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 182 (2177) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 183 (2178) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 184 (2179) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 185 (2180) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 186 (2181) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 187 (2182) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 188 (2183) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 189 (2184) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 190 (2185) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 191 (2186) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 192 (2187) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 193 (2188) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 194 (2189) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 195 (2190) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 196 (2191) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 197 (2192) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 198 (2193) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 199 (2194) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 200 (2195) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 201 (2196) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 202 (2197) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 203 (2198) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 204 (2199) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 205 (2200) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 206 (2201) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 207 (2202) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 208 (2203) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 209 (2204) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 210 (2205) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 211 (2206) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 212 (2207) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 213 (2208) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 214 (2209) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 215 (2210) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 216 (2211) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 217 (2212) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 218 (2213) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 219 (2214) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 220 (2215) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 221 (2216) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 222 (2217) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 223 (2218) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 224 (2219) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 225 (2220) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 226 (2221) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 227 (2222) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 228 (2223) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 229 (2224) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 230 (2225) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 231 (2226) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 232 (2227) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 233 (2228) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 234 (2229) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 235 (2230) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 236 (2231) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 237 (2232) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 238 (2233) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 239 (2234) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 240 (2235) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 241 (2236) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 242 (2237) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 243 (2238) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 244 (2239) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 245 (2240) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 246 (2241) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 247 (2242) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 248 (2243) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 249 (2244) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 250 (2245) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 251 (2246) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 252 (2247) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 253 (2248) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 254 (2249) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 255 (2250) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 256 (2251) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 257 (2252) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 258 (2253) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 259 (2254) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 260 (2255) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 261 (2256) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 262 (2257) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 263 (2258) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 264 (2259) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 265 (2260) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 266 (2261) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 267 (2262) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 268 (2263) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 269 (2264) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 270 (2265) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 271 (2266) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 272 (2267) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 273 (2268) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 274 (2269) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 275 (2270) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 276 (2271) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 277 (2272) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 278 (2273) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 279 (2274) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 280 (2275) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 281 (2276) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 282 (2277) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 283 (2278) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 284 (2279) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 285 (2280) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 286 (2281) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 287 (2282) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 288 (2283) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 289 (2284) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 290 (2285) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 291 (2286) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 292 (2287) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 293 (2288) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 294 (2289) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 295 (2290) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 296 (2291) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 297 (2292) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 298 (2293) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 299 (2294) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 300 (2295) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 301 (2296) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 302 (2297) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 303 (2298) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 304 (2299) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 305 (2300) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 306 (2301) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 307 (2302) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 308 (2303) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 309 (2304) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 310 (2305) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 311 (2306) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 312 (2307) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 313 (2308) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 314 (2309) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 315 (2310) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 316 (2311) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 317 (2312) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 318 (2313) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 319 (2314) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 320 (2315) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 321 (2316) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 322 (2317) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 323 (2318) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 324 (2319) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 325 (2320) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 326 (2321) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 327 (2322) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 328 (2323) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 329 (2324) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 330 (2325) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 331 (2326) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 332 (2327) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 333 (2328) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 334 (2329) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 335 (2330) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 336 (2331) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 337 (2332) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 338 (2333) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 339 (2334) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 340 (2335) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 341 (2336) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 342 (2337) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 343 (2338) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 344 (2339) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 345 (2340) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 346 (2341) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 347 (2342) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 348 (2343) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 349 (2344) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 350 (2345) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 351 (2346) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 352 (2347) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 353 (2348) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 354 (2349) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 355 (2350) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 356 (2351) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 357 (2352) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 358 (2353) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 359 (2354) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 360 (2355) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 361 (2356) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 362 (2357) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 363 (2358) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 364 (2359) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 365 (2360) £5.99, The Times Crossword Book 366 (2361) £5.99, The Times Cross

Best eaten cold, cooked by somebody else?

When some people get sacked from their job, or learn that their lover has been cheating on them, or they get swizzled by someone, they become so consumed with fury that they react like fat in a fire and just start spitting abuse at their employer or their two-timing lover. Getting uncontrolled fashion is not the most sensible way to behave.

The most sensible way to behave is to sit down calmly and count to ten. Counting to ten will give you a much more measured method of exacting revenge than you could have dreamed up on the spur of the moment, when you are still blinded by rage. Maybe a method such as hiring someone to exact your revenge for you. Maybe even somebody like the Get-Back Agency, which we saw last night on *Inside Story's* V for Vendetta (BBC1).

It would be touching to imagine that the Get-Back Agency sends musicians with large amplifiers to stand outside your revenge-victim's house and play Paul McCartney songs very, very loudly. Their repertoire is actually more varied. Take Candy and Costas Constantino. They wanted revenge on their local health club, which had just inconvenienced and humiliated them by revoking their membership. So, naturally, the Get-Back team sent Dawn, a 22-stone "Roly-Poly" artist, to visit the club as a potential member and cause havoc. Dawn tampered with the gym's dumbbells, which looked like marbles in her plump fists. Then she jumped into the swimming pool, still fully clothed, to cool off. Dawn was ordered to leave. An agency sidekick secretly videoed the occasion as a souvenir for Candy and Costas before organising a banner-waving demo outside the club to protest against

its fatist membership policies. The press, who can be manipulated a lot more easily than 22-stone Dawn, came to cover the story. Costas thought it money well spent. We never saw the bill.

But then along came consultant psychiatrist Dr Raj Persaud, chewing his nails and telling us that he was "worried that we're going to see more and more vengeful acts actually occurring". He was also snuffy about the "Crapogram", a plastic card which is sent anonymously to someone on your behalf: a couple came up with the idea when they wanted to get their own back on somebody, but then thought there might be a wider market for such a brainwave. Dr Persaud said: "I don't think the world is fundamentally going to change because you've sent someone a rather trivial, nasty message. It may make you feel better in the short

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

term, but what has it really gained you in the long term? Oh don't be so puffed. Raj! A cold beer after work doesn't really gain you anything in the long term either, but what is so wrong with feeling better in the short term?

Inserting gloomy clips of Dr Persaud's armchair psychiatry seemed a misguided attempt by the programme-makers to provide an intellectual insurance policy to a voyeuristically entertaining documentary. There is a difference between revenge-taking pranks and people who hire contract killers, though Dr Persaud didn't seem to notice it. Even Kenny, whose business card reads "Retribution Guaranteed", knows the difference between right and wrong: "I draw the line at doing irreparable damage to anyone. I would never kill anybody." See? What did I tell you, Raj?

"The kind of things I get asked to do," said Kenny, "run the range from supergluing someone's door up, put dog shit through their letterbox, blow up the car with the wife and kids in it, kill somebody else's wife and kids. It's a weird planet." So weird that maybe Candy and Costas's health club will hire Kenny to wreak vengeance on the Get-Back Agency. Then we could cut to a long-faced Raj Persaud nut-tuning on the sofa: "That would be a dangerous form

of revenge pyramid-selling, and might well end in tears."

In The Day That Changed My Life (BBC2), Mike Fanning never got a chance to get his own back on anybody when he was robbed of his glass import-export business, his marriage and his family, because the cause of his heartache was the trade embargo declared by the UN against Yugoslavia, as a result of the civil war there: all his capital was tied up with goods in Sarajevo. Four months later he was sleeping rough in Edinburgh.

- BBC1**
- 8.00am Business Breakfast (28917)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (28375)
 - 9.00 BBC Breakfast News Extra (7) (282424)
 - 9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (7) (2825530)
 - 9.50 Early Jeopardy (7) (1868917)
 - 10.20 Put It to the Test (515288)
 - 10.45 Carver's Caravan (7) (2190882)
 - 11.00 News (7) Regional News and weather (2891738)
 - 11.05 Out South (7) (2432004)
 - 11.50 Good Neighbours Fans recall their favourite characters and moments from the Australian soap (272207)
 - 12.00 News (7) Regional News and weather (4536733)
 - 12.05pm Wipeout (7) (2795337)
 - 12.35 Neighbours Fans recall their favourite characters and moments from the Australian soap (272207)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (7) (28482)
 - 1.30 Regional News and weather (2893424)
 - 1.40 Columbo: Mike's Life a Perfect Murder (7) (4082828)
 - 3.10 Outlaw Crime drama, starring Jack Klugman and Tony Danza (7) (1011350)
 - 4.00 Popzone (2028611) 4.15 Morph TV (2222294) 4.30 Cartoon Critics (2222212)
 - 5.00 Newsworld (7) (2891515)
 - 5.10 Byker Grove Youth club drama, starring Jack Baldwin and Joanne McIntosh (7) (354008)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (7) (7) (209191)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (7) (289)
 - 6.30 Regional News (849)
 - 7.00 Watchdog: Value for Money Verdicts. Fast reports on the current food for house-own holiday (7) (28404)
 - 7.30 EastEnders: George makes a shady deal with an old acquaintance — much to Annie's dismay (7) (733)
 - 8.00 Airport: Ants Newcourt has to deal with a very embarrassing delay on a VIP-led charter flight to Hong Kong. To make matters worse, it involves BA chief executive Bob Ayling (7) (2898)
 - 8.30 Pilgrims: Rest Comedy, starring Gary Olsen and Owen Taylor (7) (8795)
 - 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (7) (7725)
 - 9.30 Bernardo's Children After 62 years of separation, Michael Johnson recalls how his family finally reunited with her sister, while more recent generations who have grown up in Bernardo's care still hope for a happy ending to their tales of abuse and personal tragedy (22) (7) (874191)
 - 10.20 The Mrs Merton Show (7) (7) (891894)
 - 10.50 BBC Proms '97 BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth perform Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony (154220)
 - 11.45 The File of the Golden Goose (1989) Starring TV Byrner, Charles Gray and Edward Woodward. Espionage comedy about an American agent and a Scotland Yard detective who join forces on an undercover operation to infiltrate and apprehend a counterfeiting gang. Directed by Sam Wanmaker (79038)
 - 1.30 am Weather (2322238)
- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**
The numbers next to each programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder, instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

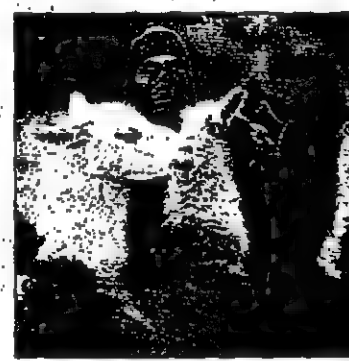
- BBC2**
- 6.00am O U: Watering the Desert (1367649)
 - 6.50 Energy at the Crossroads (2828346)
 - 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (7) and signing (2012627)
 - 7.30 Teletubbies (7) (4414849) 7.55 Brum (7) (1802337) 8.10 Rascals (7) (1501714) 8.35 Bright Sparks (7) (5668820) 9.05 Spiderman (7) (7012648) 9.35 Gold Rags (7) (5148822) 10.00 Smurfs: Adventures (7) (1715432) 10.25 Ode Dots (7) (1492822) 10.45 Spider (7) (218288)
 - 10.45 Teletubbies (7) (792820)
 - 11.15 Yankee Doodle Dandy (1942) Oscar-winning musical with James Cagney, Joan Leslie and Walter Huston. Directed by Michael Curtiz (7) (180153)
 - 1.15 pm Glynn Christian Tastes Royal Thailand (10610849) 1.40 Bloodbushers (9883578) 2.05 The Season (7) (1028228)
 - 2.30 International Women's Golf: The British Open. Live coverage of the action from Sunningdale (284424)
 - 3.30 Going, Going, Gone: Antiques panel game (998)
 - 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. Odo's secret feelings for Kira interfere with his duty (7) (737608)
 - 6.45 Nature Special: 21st-century Fox. A documentary on Britain's most successful predator and cunning survivor — the fox (7) (922404)
 - 7.30 How Buildings Learn in the final programme of the series, Stewart Brand explains different methods of sharing a building's history (7) (379)
 - 8.00 Wild Harvest with Nick Naim: Scoop hairy blackberries, picking organic herbs (7) (4830) WALLS: And Now On To...
 - 8.30 Treks: Childhood days at Beachy Head: angling for razor fish, and the joys of amber (7) (8337)
 - 9.00 Third Rock from the Sun: Dick gets an important lesson in self-control (7) (39172)
 - 9.25 Dances with Wolves: The annual "WILD" festival in Bolivia (7) (186917) WALLS: Reputations
 - 10.15 Building Sights (7) (7) (501795)
 - 10.30 Newsnight (7) (247443)
 - 11.15 Fifty Years On: Medhurst Jeffrey and Art Meek host an important international concert from Birmingham, marking the 50th anniversary of Indian independence. Artists including Ravi Shankar, Kula Shaker and Pakistan's leading band Vital Signs (7) (825153)
 - 12.55 am Holiday Weather (3138405)
 - 1.00 Learning Zone: Powers of the President (501115) 6.00 Sporting Chance: Baseball (501117) 6.00 Small Business Programme (79080)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (7845375)
 - 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (7) (2826288)
 - 9.55 Judge Judy (7) (3127795)
 - 10.20 News (7) (8912443)
 - 10.25 Regional News (7) (891714)
 - 10.30 And the Sea Will Tell: Mini-series based on the true story of a mysterious double murder on remote exotic island. With Richard O'Connell, Rachel Ward and Hart Bochner (12) (5198817)
 - 12.00 Regional News (7) (4532917)
 - 12.30 ITN News (7) (1013004)
 - 1.25 Shortland Street (108795)
 - 1.55 Home and Away (7) (1403638)
 - 1.50 Murder, She Wrote: Love Witness. Mystery with Angela Lansbury (908882)
 - 2.50 Cat Crazy (7) (8932207)
 - 3.30 News (7) (2412191)
 - 3.25 Regional News (7) (2411462)
 - 3.30 Potamus Park (7) (4112725) 3.40 Thrums Up (561775) 3.50 Rupert (568288) 4.15 Tinseltown: The Shop (7) (478747) 4.40 Red Hot (7) (242238)
 - 5.10 A Country Practice (2551288)
 - 5.40 ITN News (7) (159288)
 - 6.00 Home and Away: Shannon is surprised when Lachie asks her to move in with him (7) (133004)
 - 6.25 HTV Weather (7) (47253)
 - 7.00 HTV Tonight (917)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale: Tony has a brush with death after losing his concentration (7) (5008)
 - 7.30 Blues and Twos: Mike Pumphrey Five Documentary series on the emergency services (7) (801)
 - 8.00 The Bill: Tony the Hero DC Weston faces a dilemma (7) (4356)
 - 8.30 Undercover: Operation Kloodike. A drug-runner smuggling a lucrative shipment into the Scottish Highlands gives Customs a logistical headache (7) (8191)
 - 8.00 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Simisola (23) Wedford is at a garden party when he is called to investigate a second dead body (7) (8917)
 - 10.00 News at Ten (7) (52714)
 - 10.30 Regional News (7) (821511)
 - 10.40 West Eye View (7) (524004)
 - 11.15 On the Waterfront (86714)
 - 11.45 News News (103200)
 - 12.35am The LAOS (7) (792638)
 - 1.10 Emergency! (812515)
 - 1.40 Planet Rock Profiles (9710115)
 - 2.10 The Making of Men in Black (9434863)
 - 2.40 Life and Load (7) (300893)
 - 3.40 The Good Sex Guide (7) (519047)
 - 4.35 The Time, the Place (7) (7037157)
 - 5.00 The Pulse (7) (28414)
 - 5.30 News (7) (59841)

- As HTV West except:**
- 10.30am Film: You Know What Sailors Are (5198817)
 - 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (108795)
 - 1.50 Cat Crazy (9808240)
 - 2.20-3.20 Hart to Hart (8831795)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2551288)
 - 6.25 Central News (18795)
 - 10.40am Film: Too Good to Be True (92753240)
 - 12.40am Planet Mirth (511088)
 - 1.10 Rookmole (7052221)
 - 2.10 Planet Rock Profiles (9424853)
 - 2.40 God's Gift (4571009)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:**
- 10.30 Film: Miracle in Soho (5198817)
 - 12.55pm Home and Away (8708088)
 - 1.20 Emmerdale (1088240)
 - 1.50 Cat Crazy (9808240)
 - 2.20-3.20 Blue Healers (8831795)
 - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2551288)
 - 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (96448)
 - 10.45 All the World's a Stage (868801)
 - 11.15 Power Game (95714)
 - 11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (103820)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:**
- 10.40 David the Gnome (3613462)
 - 11.05 Cartoon Time (4582462)
 - 11.25 BraveStar (4588882)
 - 11.50 Dinosaur (9897288)
 - 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (108795) 1.50 Cat Crazy (9808240) 2.20-3.20 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (8831795) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2551288) 6.25 Agency News (118795) 10.40 The Magic and Mystery Show (149086) 11.10-11.40 Cover Story (822284) 11.40 New York News (939172)
- As HTV West except:**
- 10.40 David the Gnome (3613462) 11.05 Cartoon Time (4582462) 11.25 BraveStar (4588882) 11.50 Dinosaur (9897288) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (108795) 1.50 Cat Crazy (9808240) 2.20-3.20 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (8831795) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2551288) 6.25 Agency News (118795) 10.40 The Magic and Mystery Show (149086) 11.10-11.40 Cover Story (822284) 11.40 New York News (939172)

- As HTV West except:**
- 10.40 David the Gnome (3613462) 11.05 Cartoon Time (4582462) 11.25 BraveStar (4588882) 11.50 Dinosaur (9897288) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (108795) 1.50 Cat Crazy (9808240) 2.20-3.20 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (8831795) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2551288) 6.25 Agency News (118795) 10.40 The Magic and Mystery Show (149086) 11.10-11.40 Cover Story (822284) 11.40 New York News (939172)
- As HTV West except:**
- 10.40 David the Gnome (3613462) 11.05 Cartoon Time (4582462) 11.25 BraveStar (4588882) 11.50 Dinosaur (9897288) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (108795) 1.50 Cat Crazy (9808240) 2.20-3.20 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (8831795) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2551288) 6.25 Agency News (118795) 10.40 The Magic and Mystery Show (149086) 11.10-11.40 Cover Story (822284) 11.40 New York News (939172)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 53 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 53 are: 10.52075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.
- 6.00am 5 News Early** (7831424)
- 6.00am 5 News Early (7831424)
 - 6.00 The End of the World (2780085) 8.30 WideWorld (2789356)
 - 9.00 Espresso (8305424) 10.00 Exclusive (7824801) 10.30 Instant Gardens (7292820)
 - 11.00 Loose (293801) 11.30 Double Espresso (3354530) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (7) (1868545)
 - 1.00 5 News Update (7) (22439191) 1.05 Sunset Beach (7) (1847627) 2.00 5's Company (3054882)
 - 3.30 The Siege of Sidney Street (1960, b/w) with Donald Sinden, Nicole Berger and Kieron Moore. Crime drama about a group of Russian anarchists in London. Directed by Robert S. Baker and Monty Berman (470883)
 - 5.30 5's Company: Late Extra (60291511)
 - 5.30 100 Per Cent Game show without a host (5019191)
 - 6.00 Move on Up: Fast-moving game show (7) (501804)
 - 6.30 Family Affairs: Chris and Nicky apply for the same job (7) (5007356)
 - 7.00 Exclusive: Showbiz magazine presented by Julia Bradbury (3805171)
- 7.30 Small Miracles: Flying Fossil**
Documentary about how the dromaeosaur, unchanged in appearance since the prehistoric times, repeats its life cycle (7) (506240)
- 8.00 The Car Show** Motoring magazine introduced by Mariella Frustrop and Tristram Payne (3105379)
- 8.30 6 News** (7) (8955676)
- 9.00 Obsessed** (1992) with Shannen Doherty, William Devane and Claire Carey. Psychological thriller about a young woman's obsessive love for a much older man. Directed by Jonathan Sanger (7) (8480523)
- 10.50 Not the Jack Docherty Show** Chat and Comedy (5286172)
- 11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (8088917)
- 12.35 am Live and Dangerous** Including soccer action from the Brazilian National League and the US Major League (7034588)
- 4.35 The Streets of San Francisco** With Karl Malden and Michael Douglas (7) (7222486)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent** (7) (893888)



A herdman and his horses (8.25pm)



Behar and Renscott (8.00pm)



Eldard and Soloma (10.35pm)



The dromaeosaur (7.30pm)

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**
- SKY 1**
- 8.00am Morning Glory (142545) 8.00 Rags and Kuffs: Leo (82828) 10.00 Another World (57258) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (80828) 12.00 The New York Times (57378) 1.00pm Gossip (20558) 2.00 Judy Judy (20558) 3.00 Judy Judy (20558) 4.00 Judy Judy (20558) 5.00 Judy Judy (20558) 6.00 Judy Judy (20558) 7.00 Judy Judy (20558) 8.00 Judy Judy (20558) 9.00 Judy Judy (20558) 10.00 Judy Judy (20558) 11.00 Judy Judy (20558) 12.00 Judy Judy (20558)
- SKY 2**
- 7.00pm Superboy (305270) 7.30 Superboy (305270) 8.00 Unwashed (89828) 8.30 Unwashed (89828) 9.00 Unwashed (89828) 9.30 Unwashed (89828) 10.00 Unwashed (89828) 10.30 Unwashed (89828) 11.00 Unwashed (89828) 11.30 Unwashed (89828) 12.00 Unwashed (89828)
- SKY NEWS**
- Worldwide news coverage with bulletins on the hour 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- SKY MOVIES**
- 6.00am Gossamer and Smoke (1981) (1204) 6.30 Rudy (1987) (724) 7.00 Rudy (1987) 7.30 Rudy (1987) 8.00 Rudy (1987) 8.30 Rudy (1987) 9.00 Rudy (1987) 9.30 Rudy (1987) 10.00 Rudy (1987) 10.30 Rudy (1987) 11.00 Rudy (1987) 11.30 Rudy (1987) 12.00 Rudy (1987)
- SKY SPORTS 1**
- 7.00am Sports Centre (75711) 7.30am Sports Centre (75711) 8.00am Sports Centre (75711) 8.30am Sports Centre (75711) 9.00am Sports Centre (75711) 9.30am Sports Centre (75711) 10.00am Sports Centre (75711) 10.30am Sports Centre (75711) 11.00am Sports Centre (75711) 11.30am Sports Centre (75711) 12.00am Sports Centre (75711)
- SKY SPORTS 2**
- 6.00pm Sports Centre (75711) 6.30pm Sports Centre (75711) 7.00pm Sports Centre (75711) 7.30pm Sports Centre (75711) 8.00pm Sports Centre (75711) 8.30pm Sports Centre (75711) 9.00pm Sports Centre (75711) 9.30pm Sports Centre (75711) 10.00pm Sports Centre (75711) 10.30pm Sports Centre (75711) 11.00pm Sports Centre (75711) 11.30pm Sports Centre (75711) 12.00pm Sports Centre (75711)

- SKY SPORTS 3**
- 12.00am Sports Centre (75711) 12.30am Sports Centre (75711) 1.00am Sports Centre (75711) 1.30am Sports Centre (75711) 2.00am Sports Centre (75711) 2.30am Sports Centre (75711) 3.00am Sports Centre (75711) 3.30am Sports Centre (75711) 4.00am Sports Centre (75711) 4.30am Sports Centre (75711) 5.00am Sports Centre (75711) 5.30am Sports Centre (75711) 6.00am Sports Centre (75711) 6.30am Sports Centre (75711) 7.00am Sports Centre (75711) 7.30am Sports Centre (75711) 8.00am Sports Centre (75711) 8.30am Sports Centre (75711) 9.00am Sports Centre (75711) 9.30am Sports Centre (75711) 10.00am Sports Centre (75711) 10.30am Sports Centre (75711) 11.00am Sports Centre (75711) 11.30am Sports Centre (75711) 12.00am Sports Centre (75711)
- EUROSPORT**
- 7.00am Sports Centre (75711) 7.30am Sports Centre (75711) 8.00am Sports Centre (75711) 8.30am Sports Centre (75711) 9.00am Sports Centre (75711) 9.30am Sports Centre (75711) 10.00am Sports Centre (75711) 10.30am Sports Centre (75711) 11.00am Sports Centre (75711) 11.30am Sports Centre (75711) 12.00am Sports Centre (75711)
- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
- 6.00pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727) 6.30pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727) 7.00pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727) 7.30pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727) 8.00pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727) 8.30pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727) 9.00pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727) 9.30pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727) 10.00pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727) 10.30pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727) 11.00pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727) 11.30pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727) 12.00pm The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (900727)
- TNT**
- 8.00pm The Last Elephant (1990) (742321) 8.30pm The Last Elephant (1990) (742321) 9.00pm The Last Elephant (1990) (742321) 9.30pm The Last Elephant (1990) (742321) 10.00pm The Last Elephant (1990) (742321) 10.30pm The Last Elephant (1990) (742321) 11.00pm The Last Elephant (1990) (742321) 11.30pm The Last Elephant (1990) (742321) 12.00pm The Last Elephant (1990) (742321)
- SKY SPORTS 1**
- 7.00am Sports Centre (75711) 7.30am Sports Centre (75711) 8.00am Sports Centre (75711) 8.30am Sports Centre (75711) 9.00am Sports Centre (75711) 9.30am Sports Centre (75711) 10.00am Sports Centre (75711) 10.30am Sports Centre (75711) 11.00am Sports Centre (75711) 11.30am Sports Centre (75711) 12.00am Sports Centre (75711)
- SKY SPORTS 2**
- 6.00pm Sports Centre (75711) 6.30pm Sports Centre (75711) 7.00pm Sports Centre (75711) 7.30pm Sports Centre (75711) 8.00pm Sports Centre (75711) 8.30pm Sports Centre (75711) 9.00pm Sports Centre (75711) 9.30pm Sports Centre (75711) 10.00pm Sports Centre (75711) 10.30pm Sports Centre (75711) 11.00pm Sports Centre (75711) 11.30pm Sports Centre (75711) 12.00pm Sports Centre (75711)

- THE DISNEY CHANNEL**
- 6.00am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801) 6.30am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801) 7.00am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801) 7.30am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801) 8.00am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801) 8.30am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801) 9.00am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801) 9.30am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801) 10.00am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801) 10.30am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801) 11.00am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801) 11.30am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801) 12.00am Disney's Once Upon a Time (801)
- FOX KIDS NETWORK**
- 6.00am Fox Kids (713375) 6.30am Fox Kids (713375) 7.00am Fox Kids (713375) 7.30am Fox Kids (713375) 8.00am Fox Kids (713375) 8.30am Fox Kids (713375) 9.00am Fox Kids (713375) 9.30am Fox Kids (713375) 10.00am Fox Kids (713375) 10.30am Fox Kids (713375) 11.00am Fox Kids (713375) 11.30am Fox Kids (713375) 12.00am Fox Kids (713375)
- NICKELDEON**
- 6.00am Nickelodeon (25525) 6.30am Nickelodeon (25525) 7.00am Nickelodeon (25525) 7.30am Nickelodeon (25525) 8.00am Nickelodeon (25525) 8.30am Nickelodeon (25525) 9.00am Nickelodeon (25525) 9.30am Nickelodeon (25525) 10.00am Nickelodeon (25525) 10.30am Nickelodeon (25525) 11.00am Nickelodeon (25525) 11.30am Nickelodeon (25525) 12.00am Nickelodeon (25525)
- THE SCI-FI CHANNEL**
- 6.00pm Sci-Fi (25525) 6.30pm Sci-Fi (25525) 7.00pm Sci-Fi (25525) 7.30pm Sci-Fi (25525) 8.00pm Sci-Fi (25525) 8.30pm Sci-Fi (25525) 9.00pm Sci-Fi (25525) 9.30pm Sci-Fi (25525) 10.00pm Sci-Fi (25525) 10.30pm Sci-Fi (25525) 11.00pm Sci-Fi (25525) 11.30pm Sci-Fi (25525) 12.00pm Sci-Fi (25525)
- HOME & LEISURE**
- 6.00pm Home & Leisure (25525) 6.30pm Home & Leisure (25525) 7.00pm Home & Leisure (25525) 7.30pm Home & Leisure (25525) 8.00pm Home & Leisure (25525) 8.30pm Home & Leisure (25525) 9.00pm Home & Leisure (25525) 9.30pm Home & Leisure (25525) 10.00pm Home & Leisure (25525) 10.30pm Home & Leisure (25525) 11.00pm Home & Leisure (25525) 11.30pm Home & Leisure (25525) 12.00pm Home & Leisure (25525)
- DISCOVERY**
- 6.00pm Discovery (25525) 6.30pm Discovery (25525) 7.00pm Discovery (25525) 7.30pm Discovery (25525) 8.00pm Discovery (25525) 8.30pm Discovery (25525) 9.00pm Discovery (25525) 9.30pm Discovery (25525) 10.00pm Discovery (25525) 10.30pm Discovery (25525) 11.00pm Discovery (25525) 11.30pm Discovery (25525) 12.00pm Discovery (25525)
- THE HISTORY CHANNEL**
- 6.00pm The History Channel (25525) 6.30pm The History Channel (25525) 7.00pm The History Channel (25525) 7.30pm The History Channel (25525) 8.00pm The History Channel (25525) 8.30pm The History Channel (25525) 9.00pm The History Channel (25525) 9.30pm The History Channel (25525) 10.00pm The History Channel (25525) 10.30pm The History Channel (25525) 11.00pm The History Channel (25525) 11.30pm The History Channel (25525) 12.00pm The History Channel (25525)



GOLF 40

Lopez proves value of family support

SPORT

THURSDAY AUGUST 14 1997

SAILING 42

Americans take Admiral's Cup in close finish



Scottish champions lose way

Rangers fall to Swedish triple strike

IFK Gothenburg 3
Rangers 0

By Kevin McCarron

RANGERS have expended much energy and finance in planning for the future, but a figure who virtually belongs to the recent past in continental football has put in jeopardy all their hopes of proceeding in the European Cup.

Svein Pettersson, 34, is celebrated for his time with Ajax, but there may be a few more hymns of praise to him still to be written. He not only scored the opening goal, but also changed the whole character of this second qualifying round, first-leg match.

At that point, in the 50th minute, Rangers might have been excused if they were beginning to savour their own superiority, but one swing of Pettersson's boot shattered it.

Perhaps the Scottish champions were a little listless around their own penalty area after a free kick, but no particular danger was apparent as Robert Andersson rolled the ball square. From 25 yards, though, Pettersson thrashed a drive that flew past Goram at waist height.

The damage was all the more serious for its unexpectedness. Rangers were bemused to be behind and could not shake off the vulnerability

that had so abruptly seized hold of them.

Three minutes later, Karlsson shot from 16 yards and, although Goram parried, he could not prevent the ball from looping towards his net. A mêlée followed and the defence cleared, but the referee had already decided that the shot had crossed the line.

Another move, soon after, appeared to have brought a third goal as Niclas Alexandersson forced the ball through Goram's legs. On this occasion, however, the official decided that the finish had not quite trickled over the line. The embarrassment of the

Brighton's woe 41
Whyte lessons 41
Redfern prospers 41

Rangers goalkeeper typified the crumbling condition of the whole team. Like so many visitors to the Ullevi Stadium before them, they had found IFK resourceful opponents.

IFK's persistence paid off again a minute from the end when the substitute, Eriksson, broke through the defence to add a third goal. That leaves Rangers in desperate difficulty for the second leg at Bforn.

Teddy Lucic, injured since April, took the risk of returning for the Swedish champions in this game and Andreas

Andersson played even though he has been training with AC Milan and will officially join them after the second leg. The transfer would be called into question if he is hurt and that willingness to participate typified the pride these men take in their club.

Until the intervention of the veteran Pettersson, that valour had, nonetheless, seemed wholly insufficient. For a Rangers side that has had too many torrid nights against continental opposition, there was comfort, to begin with, in finding that the only fire directed at them came from the sweltering summer.

There was a suggestion in that innocent early stage that football itself was an intruder, with one end of the Ullevi Stadium occupied by the vast stage on which Michael Jackson will strut and sing at the weekend. All the same, it was not just the lethargy of August that delayed the threat to Rangers. Before the interval, they themselves ensured that no external assistance was required.

Rangers persistently hinted then that they were the more able team. If any small encouragement for the second leg survived, it will come from that spell. Laudrup, stricken by chickenpox, was absent and Gascoigne, previously limited by injury and suspension to only 45 minutes activity this season, fumbled for form, but Rangers' fortunes are no longer governed exclusively by those two players.

The spree of signings was supposed to create a democracy of talents at Bforn and the first half of this game demonstrated that extended franchise. The authority of their captain, Thern, in particular, could rarely be interrupted by the fellow Swedes who opposed him.

IFK Gothenburg might have accepted the defiance with which he distributed possession in his own half, but they cannot have been prepared for the raking passes with which he occasionally threatened to devise the opening goal. One perfectly weighted ball allowed Durie to gallop through on the left in the 33rd minute. Momentum took him past Johansson, but choices then confused him. Unsure whether to cut a cross back to Negri or attempt to finish himself, he struck his shot so wide that it failed even to hit the side-netting.

Gascoigne, who was later booked, would miss with a flying header early in the second half and Rangers have discovered once again the dreadful price to be paid in the European Cup by teams that do not capitalise on their ability.

IFK Gothenburg (4-4-2): T. Ravell - M. Johansson, M. Eriksson, S. Magnusson, S. Lindqvist, P. Karlsson (sub: P. Eriksson, 71min), A. Alexandersson (sub: P. Eriksson, 87), R. Andersson.

RANGERS (5-3-2): A. Goram - A. Campbell, J. Barnes, S. Thern, S. Sturges, P. Gascoigne, J. Thern, J. Albert (sub: I. Ferguson, 69), G. Duncanson (sub: A. McGilchrist, 69), G. Duncanson.

Referee: V. Pereira (Portugal)



Ilott, left, rushes to congratulate Such after the Essex No 11's drive to the boundary had ended Glamorgan's hopes of a place at Lord's

Croft and Ilott bury the hatchet

By Ivo Tennant

CHELMSFORD: Essex beat Glamorgan by one wicket

THE reconciliation was deliberately planned to be in the middle of the pitch and not in the sanctity of the dressing-room. When Essex achieved a place in the final of the NatWest Trophy yesterday, beating Glamorgan by just one wicket, Mark Ilott and Robert Croft embraced before the television cameras in the full knowledge that their spat on Tuesday evening had been unedifying and out of character. Their counties will announce by the end of this week whether any disciplinary action is to be taken.

Ilott and Croft have been friends since they played against each other as schoolboys. They regretted the way they squared up to each other over a disagreement about bad light, which was picked up by the cameras and given the same prominence on national news bulletins as the latest doings of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Gerard Elias, chairman of the disciplinary committee of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) spoke to both players at the ground yesterday. Essex and Glamorgan are conducting their own inquiries, but the ECB has the right to take further action if necessary. This was not as ugly an incident as, say, Javed Miandad and Dennis Lillee threatening each other at Perth in 1981, but it was bad enough.

"I have apologised to the umpires and I hope Mark

takes five wickets in the final," Croft said. "What happened was not great for anyone connected with the game." This included his mentor, Don Shepherd, one of Glamorgan's finest cricketers, who can hardly have enjoyed his seventeenth birthday.

"I wanted to come off for bad light and Robert was keen to stay on," Ilott said. "Had we stayed on last night, we would have lost. People talk about soft county cricket, but that was not the case here. A Lord's final makes or breaks your

season. We are not exactly the hardest couple on the circuit and yet my mother thinks I committed a crime against the state. Robert and I, Spice Boy and Spice Girl, will be going out to dinner in Cardiff in a fortnight's time. Our wives are friends, too."

In lambasting county cricket, stating that "we have to get a bit of nastiness into our game" and seemingly condoning sledging in a newspaper article, Nasser Hussain, Ilott's captain in this match, may well have given out an unfortunate message.

Few disagree with him that many of his fellow cricketers are not sufficiently hardened. Yet the coarse verbal abuse practised by the Australians is increasingly likely to be aped by professionals in England and there will be some who, as a result, will not be able to keep their tempers in check. Hussain maintained that his appeal for "mental toughness" did not have a bearing on what happened on Tuesday.

Essex were determined to return to the final after they were bowled out for 51 by

Lancashire last year. Glamorgan had not moved beyond the semi-finals for 20 years. It proved to be a sour encounter.

Essex took 11 balls to score the six runs they required and the excitement grew when they lost Hodgson, caught at the wicket off the first ball of the second over, entrusted to Thomas. Waqar Younis had conceded three runs off the first 30. Then Such, a left-hander with a first-class average of 31.4, joined Ilott, a batsman whose approach was required.

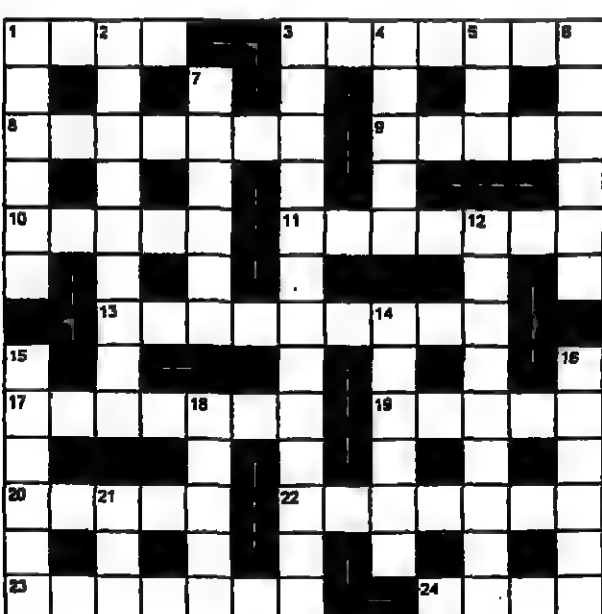
Such, although he had slept fitfully, was less nervous than on Tuesday and had chosen a lucky batsman: a bat belonging to Graham Gooch. The off-spinner drove the fifth ball of the over, an attempted yorker, to the extra-cover boundary, setting at Ilott as he did so "run, Mark, please."

It was, Hussain said, the most important stroke he had ever seen him play and the celebrations continued well into another humid afternoon.

Match Linklater, page 18
Sussex suffer, page 38

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1172 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 Fissure, chink (4)
- 3 One rejected (7)
- 8 In attendance: this roomer (7)
- 9 Let in; confess (5)
- 10 Bird; rapid (5)
- 11 Lift up (7)
- 13 Of old age, the old (9)
- 17 Ribboned post, danced round (7)
- 19 Investigate (5)
- 20 Corner; old tribesman (5)
- 22 Shamefully secretive (7)
- 23 Of least size (7)
- 24 Strengthened seams: leather strip on shoe (4)

DOWN

- 1 State of rest (6)
- 2 With emotion (9)
- 3 Superficially (2,3,4,2,2)
- 4 Detect; tiny indication (5)
- 5 Purpose (3)
- 6 (Animal's) rope (6)
- 7 Improved; punter (6)
- 12 Hermit (9)
- 14 Bang; written account (6)
- 15 Relate; bestow (6)
- 16 Throw back (6)
- 18 Grossly fat (5)
- 21 Trap; a spirit (5)

British Midland

The Airline for Europe

PRIZES: THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling Economy Class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.

THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of destinations throughout the UK as well as Europe and has now added daily flights from Heathrow to Copenhagen, Oslo, Gothenburg, Cologne and Rome. With over 1,500 flights a week to 20 European destinations British Midland is the Airline for Europe.

All flights are subject to availability

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by post Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 1171

ACROSS: 1 Guardian 5 Show 8 De Gaulle 9 Grit 11 Basil 12 Rubbish 13 Shabby 15 Digest 18 Resolve 19 Admin 21 Blas 22 Minister 23 Dent 24 Thankful
DOWN: 1 Godless 2 Agis 3 Double bill 4 Allure 5 Heroine 7 Watch 10 Obligation 14 Abstain 16 Tendril 17 Perish 18 Rabid 20 Meif

Reiffel and Gillespie go home

By Simon Wilde

ENGLAND'S beleaguered cricket team received a welcome lift yesterday with the news that Jason Gillespie and Paul Reiffel - 50 per cent of the Australia attack at Trent Bridge, where they retained the Ashes last weekend - are unavailable for the sixth and final Test match starting next Thursday. Reiffel is returning home to join his wife, who has problems in pregnancy; Gillespie has back trouble.

Their absence will provide an interesting test of Australia's strength and England's opportunism, both players having played important parts in their side winning three successive Tests and

taking an unassailable 3-1 lead in the series.

The vacancies will probably be filled by two other fast-medium bowlers, Kasproutz and Julian, whose experience with Surrey should stand him in good stead for a match to be played at the Oval. Both play in the remaining county fixture, against Kent at Canterbury over four days from Saturday. The Australians need Ireland at Londonderry today.

Gillespie produced important wicket-taking bursts in each of the Tests that Australia won, including a remarkable spell of six wickets in 47 balls at Headingley, but at

Trent Bridge aggravated a back complaint and will see a surgeon before going home.

Reiffel's contribution was as much with bat as ball, his 179 runs for three times out from the lower order giving him an average that exceeds that of the top England player, Graham Thorpe. He also took 11 wickets and fully justified his addition to the original tour party in early June.

If this represents a change of luck for England, it has come much too late to save the Ashes. But, nevertheless, the match at the Oval would be a useful one for Michael Atherton to win.

U-turn takes Barnes to Newcastle

By Our Sports Staff

JOHN BARNES yesterday signed for Newcastle United, then apologised to West Ham United for having told them that he would move to Upton Park. Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, secured the services of the former England forward on a free transfer, more than ten years after taking him to Liverpool from Watford for £600,000.

Barnes, 33, has signed a two-year contract and will be available to play in the European Cup Champions' League, if Newcastle get through the qualifying round against Croatia Zagreb. Barnes said: "I was very close to joining West Ham. And, before I heard of the interest from Newcastle, I was virtually certain I was going to join them. But once I had heard of Newcastle coming in, I couldn't be totally committed to West Ham... and he accepted the situation. The way it has happened, it has left me in

a very unfortunate situation and I will apologise to West Ham over the whole thing, the way it was actually done."

Barnes was attracted by the chance of playing European football with Newcastle, and Redknapp has refused to criticise him for his decision.

Barnes said: "He is disappointed, and rightfully so: it has come out badly, but Harry and I are still friends as far as I'm concerned."

Barnes said that he was delighted that Dalglish was giving him a chance at St James' Park and insisted that he can still play an important role for Newcastle. "I am coming to a club with a wonderful squad. I have much to offer but the Newcastle players here do also, individually and collectively. Kenny is an excellent manager - just look what he has done at both Liverpool and Blackburn and hopefully what he is going to do here at Newcastle," he said.

The transfer was announced in a statement to the Stock Exchange, which said: "The board of Newcastle United announces that John Barnes, who has been offered a free transfer by Liverpool Football Club, has signed a two-year contract with Newcastle United. No transfer fee is payable to Liverpool."

Barnes, capped 73 times by England, could make his debut in Newcastle's next FA Cup Premier League fixture, at home to Aston Villa a week on Saturday, before returning to Anfield with his new teammates on Sunday, August 31.

Blackburn Rovers are the front-runners to provide the unsettled Liverpool winger, Mark Kennedy, with an exit route from Anfield. The Dubliner, 21, has put in a transfer request after two years in the shadows at Liverpool. If Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, and the board agree to let Kennedy go, Blackburn will head the list of interested clubs.

Kennedy said: "I don't believe I have been given a chance at Liverpool. I've got to get away to fulfil my potential as a player and as an international."

Blackburn have raised £13 million by selling seven players since the arrival of Roy Hodgson as manager from Internazionale.

Crystal Palace were disappointed last night when David Unsworth's move from Everton to West Ham was completed. Palace expect to take their summer spending to £7 million later today, when Neil Embley, the versatile midfielder player, should complete his £2 million move from Wolverhampton Wanderers.

LONG DISTANCE UP TO 66%
CHEAPER THAN B.T.

THINK st



Destination	BT	FT	Savings
USA	24p	10p	58%
GERMANY	28p	18p	36%
AUSTRALIA	49p	20p	59%
JAPAN	77p	26p	66%

STANDARD RATE one minute call including VAT.

If you've got a BT phone, you can make big savings to over 250 countries by adding First Telecom's service to it.

Just open an account with us, then dial a simple number before you make any long distance or overseas calls.

Think first, before you make another long distance call.

FIRST TELECOM
0800 458 6666

Cheaper car insurance
0800 140 180

Set - Sun 10am - April

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

Opponents of the law have suggested that drivers might be at greater risk if they strike back. George Steimel, a lobbyist for criminal defence lawyers, said: "Knowing that vehicle owners now have a licence to kill, carjackers won't think twice about dumping a

Mr Bruneau, who makes a point of introducing controversial legislation, may soon try again with a Bill that failed earlier this year. This would force newly convicted drunk drivers to affix a sticker to their cars highlighting their offence.

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

The newlyweds went on a camping trip to a lake on May 13, towing a new jet-powered speedboat. Mr Thorstenson was already sneaking out for sex with an old girlfriend, one of his



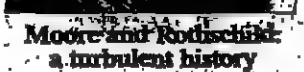
He has been seeking a location to open a topless bar in Phoenix, according to an associate. Mrs Leshner's four adult daughters have hired investigators to look into his past.

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

Officials in Boulder wanted to keep details of the autopsy secret because they said it contained information only the killer would know. But media groups challenged the coroner's office in court and the state Supreme Court ordered the report to be released.

BY GILES WHITTELL

He met Ms Rothschild when she was 18. She had been married once before to a Motown musician by whom she has two children.

[illegible]

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

Win one of 7 scooters

This week *The Times* gives you the chance to win one of seven Piaggio scooters worth approximately £11,600 in total. The Vespa, a recognised style icon, was first created 50 years ago and more than 15 million have been sold worldwide. Today we feature the Zip SP, the ultimate sport scooter, with an on the road price of £1,435. It has automatic clutch and gears, electric start, front disc brake, a liquid-cooled, 2-stroke engine and twin poly-clip-soidal headlights.

PIAGGIO

HOW TO ENTER

Send your tokens with the completed form below.

Readers must be over 16 to enter.

● For details on the Piaggio range, call 0800 20 30 10

THE **T**IMES

PIAGGIO

TOKEN 5

THE TIMES/PIAGGIO COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Send this form with four differently numbered tokens to arrive by September 12, 1997, to: *The Times/Piaggio Competition*, PO Box 5070, LL7 7FZ.

Which token would you like to win?

Full name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime tel _____

IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:
Which of the following age groups describes you best?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (if 5 copies) each week?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (if 5 copies) each week?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (if 2-4 copies a month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations contacted by *The Times*, please tick ☐

Japan v
lift lid c

**New st
claim
pot is
addict
is alev**

ROEN
ERS
£9

Japan war veterans lift lid on atrocities

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

A GROUP of Imperial Army veterans has publicly confessed to wartime atrocities in the hope of counterbalancing moves to sanitise modern Japanese history for the nation's classrooms.

As Japan marks the 52nd anniversary of the end of the Pacific War, former soldiers have broken their silence and described their own role in murder, rape and cannibalism in occupied China.

"We want to share our raw experiences with young people before we die," said Tsuyoshi Ebato, 84, who heads the Association of Returnees from China, a veterans' group.

"These are things that children will not find in government-censored textbooks."

The confessions appear in *What did Japan do in China?*, an 80-page magazine that Mr Ebato's group hopes to publish regularly as a forum for old soldiers troubled by guilt. In the first edition, Mr Ebato reveals how soldiers like himself — a young officer in the 9th Division serving in

Shandong Province — honed their skills with the bayonet. "June 12, 1945. A beautiful day without a cloud in the sky," he wrote. "Four Chinese peasants were tied to posts. They'd done nothing wrong. One was no more than a boy, who cried out to me to let him go because his mother was waiting for him."

"I thrust my bayonet into each of them in a frenzy, until my instructor signalled it was time to stop." Another veteran, Narakazu Uematsu, recounts how in March 1943, villagers were beaten with clubs to get them to reveal the Chinese Army's position. They refused to talk. "I took out my gun and shot seven elderly people, one after the other."

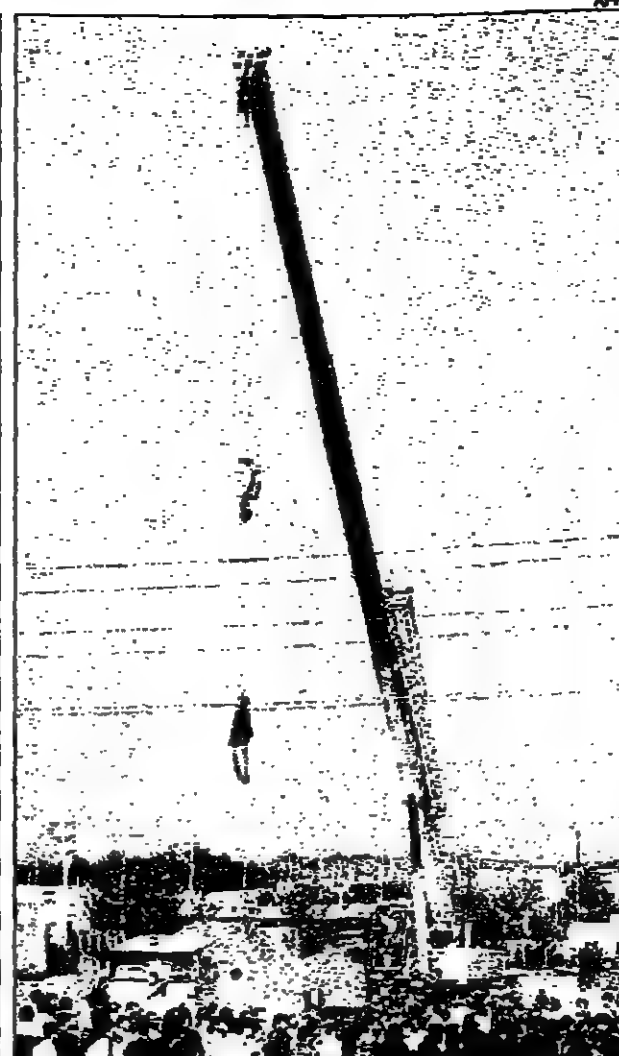
The magazine also contains the confession of a sergeant-major who raped and murdered a number of Chinese

women. Then, because food supplies were short, he sliced off pieces of flesh from the women's thighs, fried them and made a meal for members of the unit. "Terrible things like this happened on a daily basis in our division," says Mr Ebato. "We can no longer remain silent because some historians are now saying that such atrocities never happened."

The public remorse shown by the Association, representing 500 soldiers who spent up to six years in Chinese captivity after the war, has incensed other Japanese veterans and nationalists who refuse to acknowledge the Imperial Army's misdeeds. They have denounced the Association as "masochistic" and are campaigning to purge school textbooks of references to military abuses. For years the Education Ministry has ensured that schoolbooks omit or play down shameful events like the building of the Burma Railway at the cost of 16,000 Allied lives.

But this year, for the first time, Japanese schoolchildren are being told about one nasty episode — the 200,000 "comfort women" forced into prostitution for the Japanese military before and during the war. This has brought angry protests from a coalition of scholars, business leaders and politicians demanding the reference to comfort women should be purged and that Japanese children should be taught "history the Japanese can be proud of."

Mr Ebato says that as long as Japan tries to cover up its wartime misdeeds it can never enjoy the trust of neighbouring countries invaded by the Emperor's armies. "The Japanese way is to 'keep the lid on the stinking pot'," he said. "But with this magazine we want to lift the lid and reflect on our crimes."



The "Vampire of Tehran" hangs from a crane after being lashed by relatives of his nine female victims

Crowd of 20,000 bays at Tehran killer's execution

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

AN Iranian serial killer, dubbed the "Vampire of Tehran" because he preyed on girls and women at night while working as a taxi driver, was hanged from a mobile crane yesterday before 20,000 frenzied onlookers who chanted "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest).

Before he was tied to the yellow crane and hoisted, legs flailing, high into the dawn sky, male relatives of his nine victims took turns whipping Gholamreza Kordieh, 28.

His killing spree over three months earlier this year terrorised women in the Iranian capital. Serial killers are virtually an unknown phenomenon in Iran but already there is concern that Kordieh's reign of terror could provoke copy-cat killings.

Yesterday, onlookers battled through traffic to witness the hanging. Some camped out overnight to ensure a good view. Others perched on trees and roof signs.

The crowd surged forward when Kordieh, who was not blindfolded, was dragged out

barefoot and with his hands tied. About 1,000 baton-wielding riot police held them back as the condemned man was lashed for ten minutes.

Kordieh, who still managed to walk after he was lashed, wore a quizzical expression as he gazed at those baiting him. His last words were: "I borrowed money from no one, and I owe none to anyone. I ask God for forgiveness for what I did."



Kordieh: taxi driver preyed on women

WORLD SUMMARY

Tajik rebel colonel resigns

Dushanbe: The Tajik Government said yesterday that Colonel Makhmud Khudoberdiyev, a rebel army colonel, had agreed to be relieved of his command and withdraw his forces to barracks after four days of fighting around the capital Dushanbe.

The fighting between two rival warlords broke out on Saturday. The colonel's troops abandoned their positions under repeated rocket attacks from forces loyal to President Rakhmonov. (Reuters)

Poison deaths

Moscow: Twenty-one people died and 90 are in hospital after eating poisonous mushrooms near Lipetsk and Voronezh, southwest Russia. Mushroom-picking is popular among city-dwellers. (AFP)

Village slaughter

Algiers: An armed group surrounded the village of Hraouate in northern Algeria, slit the throats of 24 people and then shot and wounded ten others who tried to flee, hospital officials said. (AP)

Zambia riots

Lusaka: Zambian police arrested 56 people after scores of traders rioted when their central market stalls were destroyed by a mysterious fire. Armed police continue to patrol the area. (Reuters)

History is news

Jakarta: Nine tribespeople, forced by famine from isolated forest on Indonesia's Sulawesi island, have learned that Indonesia is independent. One old man thought it was still ruled by the Dutch. (AFP)

Blasphemy case



Jerusalem: Tatyana Suskin, above, was ruled fit to stand trial on charges of pasting posters in Hebron depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a pig. The offences carry a 26-year sentence. (Reuters)

New study claims pot is as addictive as alcohol

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

CANNABIS is as addictive as alcohol, according to a study of drug users in Australia published yesterday.

In a survey of 200 long-term users, researchers at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre found that 92 per cent were physically dependent on cannabis and almost 40 per cent were severely dependent. Withdrawal symptoms included insomnia, depression and appetite fluctuations.

Wendy Swift, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre psychologist and author of the study, said: "A lot of people say pot isn't addictive and you can't get physically addicted, but you certainly can."

She said that while withdrawal from cannabis was not as severe as from alcohol, other common symptoms included anxiety and night sweats. "In the general population, of all the people who ever tried cannabis about 10 per cent would become dependent — probably a similar risk to developing alcohol dependence. The longer you use cannabis the greater the risk of becoming dependent."

Ms Swift said that other characteristics of dependent users included having a high tolerance to the drug and spending a great deal of time obtaining it, using it or recovering from it which interfered with their obligations or daily activities.

The survey was conducted on 200 men and women in Sydney who had been using cannabis at least once a week for an average of 11 years. More than half used it daily and three quarters took it four times a week.

Most were employed or studying and 60 per cent had tertiary qualifications. Researchers also found that women were more dependent on cannabis than men.

Ms Swift said: "People use cannabis because it's nice, it does good things for them and relaxes them. It's better than alcohol because it's not an aggressive feeling. But there are trade-offs. It's not totally benign and it's not the devil it's painted to be."

□ Beijing: A Chinese actress who starred in an anti-drug film has died of an overdose, the *Xinmin Evening News* reported. The death of Zhu Jie, 30, a former drama school classmate of screen superstar Gong Li, was confirmed by Beijing Film Studios. (AP)

Baking Potatoes
(Loose) Per lb
34p SAVE 15p 19p

Cucumber Each
55p SAVE 17p 38p

Tony's Freezer Cocktails
(All Varieties)
25cl £1.39 Each
Buy 3 SAVE £1.00

Smirnoff Mule
4 x 275ml Pack
£4.29

Petit Chablis Helene Marty 75cl
£5.49 SAVE £1.50 £3.99

Harvest Cellars Bucks Fizz 75cl
£2.39 SAVE £1.00 £1.39

Bourgogne Rouge Pinot Noir 75cl
£5.99 SAVE £1.50 £4.49

Bordeaux Blanc Sec Wine 75cl
£2.69 SAVE 70p £1.99

Heineken Lager
12 x 440ml Cans Pack
£8.69 SAVE £2.20 £6.49

Tropicana Original Orange Juice 1 Litre
£1.99 SAVE 30p £1.69

Fanta Orange/Diet Fanta Orange/Lit Mango/Lit Diet Lit/Dr. Pepper 2 Litre
£1.15 Each
Buy Any 2 Get 3rd Free

OUR SAUSAGES HAVE STRONG FAMILY LINKS

We've been making our sausages for over 50 years. In that time (and in our opinion) we've produced some of the finest sausages you know of. That's why we've been awarded the 'Best Sausage' award by the British Sausage Association. We're proud to say that our sausages are made from the finest meat and are cooked to perfection. They're the perfect choice for any occasion.

BUDGENS QUALITY CORNER

Crosse & Blackwell Branston Pickle
310g 68p Each
Buy Any 2 Get 3rd Free

Crosse & Blackwell Sandwich Pickle
310g 68p Each
Buy Any 2 Get 3rd Free

Maryland Coolides
(All Varieties)
150g 48p Each
Buy Any 2 Get 3rd Free

Budgens Large White Baps 12 Pack
£1.49 SAVE 50p 99p

Galaxy Petite Ice Cream 6 Pack
£2.79 Each

Mars Ice Cream 4 Pack
£1.99 Each
Buy Galaxy Petite Ice Cream Get Mars Ice Cream 4 Pack FREE (Save £1.99)

Müller Light Yogurts
(All Varieties) 200g
4p SAVE 12p 29p

Budgens Vanilla Ice Cream 2 Litre
£1.65 SAVE 66p 99p

Kool Cheesecakes Triple Pack 3 x 90g Pack
£1.45 SAVE 36p £1.09

Budgens Fresh Irish Recipe Sausages 454g
£1.29 SAVE 30p 99p

Nescafe Coffee Triple Pack**
Price Marked £5.09 Packs Only!
3 x 100g Pack
£5.94 SAVE 95p £4.99

Kool Cheesecake Strawberry/Blackcurrant 90g
51p SAVE 12p 39p

Dalepak Gold Beefburgers 6 Pack
MRRP £2.59 SAVE 60p £1.99

Budgens West Country Beef Topside/Top Rump/Silverside Per lb
£2.99 SAVE £1.00 £1.99

Budgens Decorated Kitchen Towel
(All Colours) 2 Roll Pack
£1.32 SAVE 33p 99p

Budgens Fresh Whole Chicken 2.3kg
£6.79 SAVE £2.00 £4.79

Chicken Tonight
(All Varieties)
500g/525g £1.39 Each
Buy 1 Get 1 Free

BUDGENS

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES FURTHER. NOT YOU.

OFFERS VALID 14.8.97 - 27.8.97. *Equivalent products of the same quality must be on sale in a competitor within a 3 mile radius of Budgens and within 7 days of Budgens product purchase. Applies only to products where you see the 3 Mile Price Promise sign in store. Subject to availability. Receipt required. Refund limited to 3 of each product. 1 pack offer subject to availability. **Savings based on price when bought individually. These products were previously on sale at the higher price indicated in some, but not all of our stores. Offers not valid in Budgens Parkway/Windermere/Cowley/Scarsted/Schoon/Freshwater. Off Licence products are not sold in Chorleywood Store. T & C FREEPHONE 0800 526 602 for details of your nearest Budgens Supermarket (Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm).

CITROEN OWNERS

COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM £95

Low Cost Insurance for Citroens

Call our National Quoteline on
0345 123111

All Calls Charged at Local Rate

Ask for a quote on the internet: <http://www.hillhouse.co.uk>

Hill House Hammond

Over 250 Branches Nationwide



Dr Thomas Stuttford on abusing the spine, conversations with aliens, new drugs to aid schizophrenics, the dangers of jellyfish for holidaymakers, and an important test for chlamydia

Back strain is peak of mounting stresses

Recently a mountain guide speaking on the BBC World Service said his charges no longer climbed because of a love of solitude and the beauty of the mountains, but were motivated, he feared, by a form of competitive self-aggrandisement. Some mountaineers, it seems, are prompted by motives little different from those of the Victorian fairground gymnasts who vied with each other to lift the heaviest weight.

Alan Hinkes's attempt to be the first Briton to climb the world's 14 highest peaks has, he believes, been thwarted by the flour on the surface of his chapati. While enjoying his meal, Mr Hinkes inhaled at the wrong moment, the flour tickled the inside of his nose, he sneezed explosively and propped a spinal disc.

Hinkes makes the mistake of many patients by only considering the immediate cause of a prolapsed (slipped) disc; this may be comparatively trivial — simply twisting to pick up a briefcase from the back seat of the car, lifting a weight no heavier than an 18-month-old toddler, straining to change a tyre, or even simply coughing, sneezing or blowing the nose.

Mr Hinkes must have sneezed tens of thousands of times before without prolapsing a disc: why did it happen on this occasion? Discs, which are the shock-absorbing washers between the vertebral bones, degenerate with age and, in consequence, wear and tear is frequently a

predisposing factor. Sooner or later the gelatinous nucleus pulposus, the squidgy cushion at the centre of the disc, will herniate through a tear in the annulus fibrosus, the tough outer ring around a disc. The protruding, herniating nucleus pulposus may only press on the posterior ligaments in the back, which in itself is painful, or it may touch one of the nerve roots and produce the agonising pain of sciatica. The usual story is that the patient has been subjected to his or her back to hours, or even days, of mistreatment. This mistreatment may be no more than sitting cramped in a car, hunched, weary, strained by the driving and dehydrated; characteristically the drivers neither stop to stretch their legs nor have time for a drink.

It may be that the sufferer has been continually submitting his back to excessive workloads, or has been repeatedly jarring it. Whatever the source of the abuse that causes the weakness in the annulus fibrosus, it is likely in time to damage it so that it becomes irretrievably weakened. If this happens, a cough, carrying luggage in from the car, or even stooping to put on socks may be enough to cause the final prolapse. The sufferer is then gripped by an acute pain which is so agonising that, as Mr Hinkes discovered, any movement is an excruciating effort. After a time the pain usually starts to radiate down one or both legs.

Not all disc lesions present with classic



Accident-prone mountaineer Alan Hinkes: a sneeze only precipitated his injury, it wasn't the underlying reason

symptoms; in other cases they develop slowly. Although sciatica, with the pain radiating down a leg, is the most common nerve root pain, the area that is affected depends on the level in the spine where the disc has been damaged. In some cases the pain may be felt in the lower abdomen, in the back, or it may radiate to the inner thigh and genitalia. This latter distribution is known as loin and groin pain, and is a regular source of diagnostic confusion in gynaecological and urology clinics.

The advent of the MRI scan has made it possible for a precise diagnosis to be made,

and the point of damage precisely located. Nobody now should be left lying for weeks, or, in the past, sometimes even months, on boards while nature healed the problem. Prolonged rest hinders recovery.

Microdiscectomy, the operation in which the surgeon shaves away the disc where it is impinging on the nerve, has revolutionised treatment. Patients who have been so incapacitated that their activities have been seriously restricted for more than three weeks deserve full investigation, probably including an MRI scan, rather than the mere prescription of

painkillers. Immediate investigation is called for in those patients in whom the nerve damage is affecting their bladder or bowel control, or their potency. Nerve root pain in children and adolescence also requires immediate investigation.

Mr Hinkes is now back in Yorkshire and enjoying his fish and chips, although he said in a radio interview that notwithstanding the chapatis he had every intention to climb his peaks. At his next attempt he should take it all rather more steadily, and find time to take pleasure in what he is achieving.

Symptoms that must never be ignored

WHEN Proust was in his mid-30s he wrote to his father, who was a doctor, about symptoms attributed to his prostate.

Proust was anxious in case he was already developing signs and symptoms of prostatic enlargement, although in retrospect a more feasible diagnosis was that he had developed a chlamydial infection which had given him urethritis, possibly complicated by prostatitis.

Men are usually all too well aware when they have caught chlamydia, a sexually transmitted infection. The resulting NSU (non-specific urethritis) results in a visible urethral discharge of varying severity and colour, and there is pain on passing water.

Women, on the other hand, may not notice a urethral discharge, or an increase in their cervical discharge, and are so prone to cystitis that painful urination may be dismissed without investigation.

Unfortunately, under-ratifying these symptoms can have serious long term consequences. Chlamydial infections are the commonest cause of chronic pelvic inflammatory disease, which accounts for over 70 per cent of blocked fallopian tubes.

Testing for chlamydia has previously involved collecting swabs from the cervix and urethra and sending them to an efficient laboratory for analysis. Recently the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) has reported on a study that tested the efficiency of a recently introduced urine test as a means of diagnosing chlamydial infections in women and as a screening test for those women who could be at increased risk of picking up sexually transmitted diseases.

A view of this research by Dr Linden Kockert in *Pulse* magazine, whose practice was involved in the study, suggests that the ligase chain-reaction urine test is not only less intrusive for women but more effective than existing tests and that it will become an important means of detecting chlamydial infections in women before their tubes have been irretrievably damaged and they suffer infertility.

Air marshal's flight of fancy

The autobiography of Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley, former war-time pilot and later deputy head of Strike Command, is being published in October.

There are already press and radio reports that the book contains an account of Sir Peter's conversation with an alien, who told the air marshal about life on flying saucers. One interesting feature of these travellers from outer space is that as they journey they carry with them in their luggage spare body parts.

Whatever happened in the flat in Smith Square, Westminster, where Sir Peter had his encounter in 1954, may never be unravelled but he is unlikely to convince either his RAF colleagues, or his doctors, that his informant, Janis, existed.

It is interesting that patients' auditory, visual or olfactory hallucinations, and the delusions that stem from them, are dependent on the prevailing culture. If Sir Peter had lived several centuries ago, and if the explanation for the strange happenings in Smith Square is the result of a hallucination, he might have been confronted

by the devil, or a saint. Religious imagery is now unfashionable, and people who believe they have had paranormal experiences are more likely to recount how they have met a man from outer space. And many are convinced that they have been abducted or raped by the little green men, but when pressed

London club was regularly disturbed by the noisy argument that one much-loved member held with his voices. Together they batted over the political points reported in the newspapers and other members were treated to a running commentary on the discussion inside his head.

Hallucinations may also be tactile so that patients not only hear the voice of the invisible stranger, but may feel them, and may even complain that the hallucinatory presence has made sexual advances.

Visual hallucinations are also common in many forms of dementia as well as in psychotic conditions. Delirium tremens and Lewy body dementia, a form of senile dementia, are particularly associated with visual hallucinations.

In Lewy body dementia the vision is frequently incomplete, a phenomenon that may

account for the number of ghosts, which are either headless or without feet.

Perhaps Sir Peter really did meet an alien, but for those of us who don't like to think that the man in charge of a nuclear strike force was hallucinating, there is another more reassuring explanation. It is possible that Sir Peter, exhausted after his duties at Buckingham Palace where he was then posted, dropped off to sleep in the Smith Square flat and experienced a hypnagogic hallucination.

Hypnagogic hallucinations are the phenomena in which a person who is in the twilight zone between sleep and wakefulness sees, hears and even feels a hallucinatory other person. The image is very real and it can be very hard to convince the dreamer that the incident only took place in his or her mind. Hypnagogic hallucinations are comparatively common and whereas they are usually part of a continuing sleep disorder, they can occur in people who don't have a history of abnormal sleep patterns.



Sir Peter Horsley

Jellyfish warning to holidaymakers

THE hot weather has produced the usual problems for seaside holidaymakers. This week visitors to beaches in East Anglia have been suffering from jellyfish stings.

The tentacles of jellyfish release a mild toxin when they are touched. It usually causes little more trouble than some reddening of the skin, a faint rash which is mildly itchy. The symptoms are readily alleviated by a simple painkiller — *Veganin*, for instance, for adults, *paracetamol* for children, and inflammation is reduced by the application of hydrocortisone cream. If part of the tentacle remains stuck to the skin an application of vinegar from the picnic basket will usually cause it to drop off, or it may be removed by applying sticky plaster and tearing off.

Some patients are allergic to such stings. If the reaction is very severe they may need an immediate subcutaneous injection of one in a thousand adrenaline, and in the very worst cases transfer to hospital.



Watch out for jellyfish on the beach

New drugs aid schizophrenics

THE introduction of anti-psychotic drugs 30 years ago was a huge advance in the treatment of schizophrenia. Unfortunately 25 per cent of patients failed to respond to these drugs, and half of those treated with them relapsed within two years. Many of the drugs also have unpleasant side effects.

Over the past year or two a new era in the treatment of schizophrenia has started with the advent of the atypical neuroleptics. The indications for the prescription of *Risperdal* has recently been extended. The advice to doctors to use *Risperdal* with caution in the elderly has been replaced with the statement that it is well-tolerated in older patients.

Dr Tommy Sharma, senior lecturer at the Maudsley Hospital, London, said: "These new drugs offer a proven treatment with fewer side effects than the older treatment. Patients are less likely to suffer excess tiredness, sexual dysfunction, gross weight gain, or uncontrollable movement to the face and limbs than are those taking conventional neuroleptics. The new drugs are also better at controlling a wide range of psychotic symptoms."

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE BEST SCHOOLS IN BRITAIN



This Sunday, don't miss The Good Primary Schools Guide, free with The Sunday Times. Featuring the elite of the state system in the UK

GIVE YOUR CHILD THE BEST POSSIBLE START IN LIFE

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Ancient art without a history

Up to 90 per cent of the antiquities sold on the London auction market have no provenance. In the first part of a two-part series, Peter Watson exposes an archaeological scandal

Last month, archaeologists on both sides of the Atlantic were shocked to discover that more than a score of priceless stone carvings that were once an integral part of the spectacular palaces of Nineveh and Nimrud in ancient Babylon (now modern Iraq) had been hacked from the walls and were being touted on the international art market in London, New York and Paris.

The matter came to light when a man living in Mayfair, central London, who had bought one of the carvings in good faith, sought permission to take it out of Britain. Dr John Curtis, the expert from the British Museum who was called in to vet the application, spotted that the object had been looted from Nineveh and refused the licence.

Such pillage shows nowhere is now safe from thieves. Later this year, two British archaeologists will reveal much more disturbing and wide-ranging evidence about the traffic in looted antiquities.

Over the past four years, they have been looking into several important collections of ancient artefacts amassed in recent years, and have made these revelations:

● Up to 90 per cent of the antiquities that appear on the London auction market are unprovenanced — many of which may have been illegally excavated and smuggled out of their countries of origin.

● Although Sotheby's was shown earlier this year, in *The Times* and on Channel 4, to have sold antiquities that had no provenance and in some cases had been stolen and/or illegally excavated and smuggled, unprovenanced traffic elsewhere is almost as bad.

● Many modern private collections are made up largely of illicit objects.

● Collectors, or the experts who catalogue their collections, are often deliberately misleading about provenance, concealing the fact that antiquities have been looted and smuggled.

● Certain museums and other institutions in Britain and abroad may be unaware of, or turn a blind eye to, the background of these unprovenanced artefacts.

In doing so, they flatter collectors, who may bequest these objects at some point in the future. To that extent, such museums have allowed commercial considerations and ambition to override their duty to scholarship.

● Collectors, well aware of this attitude in museums, stage exhibitions in these institutions, which seek to confer respectability on otherwise unprovenanced collections.

● Most important, the scholars show how our understanding of the past is threatened by the widespread scale of the looting, and how it renders the bulk of the ancient objects in

government officials and museum curators about the way looting affects our understanding of the past. However, combined with the previous disclosures, the new evidence will put further pressure on salesrooms everywhere to curb the traffic.

The method used by Drs Gill and Chippindale relies on close attention to detail, stamina and tenacity in following up paper trails into obscure journals and dusty archives. The two have calculated the proportion of antiquities that have turned up for sale at the major auction houses with no declared history over the past three years. In May 1997, the figures for New York auction houses (excluding Bonhams, which held no sale) were: Christie's, 89 per cent; Sotheby's, 67; and, overall, 76. The figures for the July 1997 London sale were: Bonhams, 94 per cent; Christie's, 86; Sotheby's 73; and, overall, 86. One defence often put forward by the auction houses is that unprovenanced antiquities may not necessarily have been illegally excavated and smuggled out of their country of origin, but that they might have come out of those countries before modern laws were in force.

The short answer Drs Gill and Chippindale give in reply to this is "nonsense". Indeed, they go further, and damn it as a "convenient fiction", a presumption that suits the art trade. Looking at four modern collections, they traced each of 569 objects back as far as its provenance would go, and found that only 101 items had been in a previous collection.

That figure should be put alongside the fact that, in four other collections where calculation was possible, 449 out of 546 objects, or 82 per cent, first came to scholars' notice in the past 30 years. This is important, as the Archaeological Institute of America has drawn up guidelines forbidding its members to have anything to do with antiquities with no provenance and that have appeared on the market after December 31, 1973.

What is therefore clear from the figures unearthed by Drs Gill and Chippindale is that the great majority of the fine antiquities that have appeared



Auction houses everywhere will come under increased pressure to curb the traffic in unprovenanced antiquities

in the past 30 years have no provenance whatsoever. Bluntly, very few antiquities have ever been in an old collection or someone's attic. Instead, most objects without a history may have been illegally excavated and smuggled — and fairly recently at that.

No less revealing is the wording used by auction houses and collectors when describing where objects come from. In the collections and sales that Drs Gill and Chippindale looked at, it transpired that 395 out of 590 artefacts were described in very woolly ways. Some were "said to be" from such-and-such a place, others were "allegedly from" island X, still others were "possibly from" city Y. Some were simply labelled "T".

Even when a place name is given as a find site, it turns out that many are really euphemisms, phrases so vague as to be archaeologically meaningless. Instead of saying "Turkey", dealers use the terms "Anatolia", "Asia Minor", "Black Sea Region", "Ionia" etc. An aura of provenance fills the space in the catalogue, making it appear that the collector's curators, or salesroom cataloguers have earned their fee.

Anyone who doubts that should consider Drs Gill and Chippindale's next move, their most audacious and the most difficult for them to follow through. For with a large number of objects, they managed to trace back their history through earlier sales and collections. This involved delving in dusty archives and locating little-known catalogues with a limited circulation. But their efforts were repaid. They found that the provenance of many objects had, in their words, "drifted".

Takes, for example, an object in one of the exhibitions they looked at, "Art and Culture of the Cyclades", held in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 1976, one of the most important showings of Cycladic antiquities ever held. No. 41, an abstract figure, was labelled "Provenance unknown". However, in an exhibition held in the United States in 1987 entitled "Early Cycladic Art in North American Collections", the same object was labelled "Reputedly found on Naxos". If any extra information had come to light in the intervening years, the catalogue of the 1987 exhibition did not make this clear.

Similarly, a marble head, No. 177 in the Karlsruhe exhibition, was also labelled "Provenance unknown", but by the time of the US exhibition, it was "Reputedly found on Keros". In a third case, a statuette of a woman, part of the Shelby White and Leon Levy Collection, shown in "The Gods Delight the Human Figure in Classical Bronze Age Art", at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1988, had come from "Syria or Lebanon", according to the catalogue. By the time the same figure was displayed at the Metropolitan Museum in 1990, it was labelled as "from Egypt".

Many more such examples could be given and the implication is plain: most of these provenances could be baseless, to hide the possibility that they may have been looted and smuggled.

Drs Gill and Chippindale next turned their spotlight on several prestigious institutions — the Fitzwilliam Museum, the Royal Academy in London, the Hermitage in St Petersburg and the Metropolitan Museum — that have exhibited large collections of antiquities in recent years whose origins were at the least questionable.

In "The Glories of the Past" — the title given to the exhibition of the Shelby White and Leon Levy collection at the Metropolitan Museum in 1990 — Drs Gill and Chippindale found that only 4 per cent of this collection had a known provenance, that some 90 per cent had no provenance whatsoever, and that the remaining 6 per cent fell into the notorious "said to be" or "probably" categories.

The "Crossroads of Asia" exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum in 1992 comprised a collection belonging to a mys-

terious organisation, "A.I.C." — what the initials stood for was never explained. In this collection, 88 per cent of the objects had no history before the exhibition, but were legitimised because the Fitzwilliam show also featured properly provenanced artefacts from the British Museum, the Ashmolean and the Louvre.

And in the George Ortiz Collection, shown at the Royal Academy in 1994, 23 per cent had no provenance at all, while 62 per cent were in the "said to be", "possibly" and "allegedly" categories. The point here is not that there were one or two objects in each of these collections that were open to question, but that the vast majority were.

It is important to add that we are not dealing with "everyday" antiquities, but with some very significant objects. Drs Gill and Chippindale highlight this by focusing on a number of specific antiquities whose provenance they were able to investigate:

● A bronze statue of Lucius Verus in the "Glories" exhibition in New York. This is most probably one of 20 life-size bronze or marble statues that were looted in the Sixties from Bulbon in northern Lycia (the part of Turkey opposite Rhodes). The room from which these sculptures were stolen still contains the inscribed statue bases, which allow us to know the identity and order of the statues that once stood there. The room seems to have been linked to the Roman imperial cult, and a statue of the emperor Septimius Severus was among others looted.

● An Attic black-figure amphora, by the Buco Painter, from the last quarter of the sixth century BC, showing a bearded ploughman on one side and a multi-branched tree with birds on the other side. This object, which forms part of the Shelby White-Leon Levy collection, was bought at auction at Sotheby's, Lot 132, in the auction house's sale on December 9, 1985, for £110,000. It can now be revealed as having been consigned to the salesroom by Giacomo Medici, the Italian dealer who was shown earlier this year to be the mastermind behind so much of the illegal antiquities trade.

Sotheby's marked catalogue for the sale where the Buco amphora was bought — and which was made available to me — shows that the object was consigned by Christian Boursaud, Medici's right-hand man.

We are left, therefore, with the inescapable conclusion that many modern collections of antiquities are, for the most part, made up of valuable objects that have been illegally excavated, smuggled out of their countries of origin, often then bought at auction, with labels attached that may well be archaeologically meaningless. The true nature of this whole business depends on disguise.

● Tomorrow: Fantasy archaeology, the facts and the fiction

Encounters of the clairvoyant kind

How easy to sneer at poor Diana, Princess of Wales, who on Tuesday, hand in hand with Dodi Fayed, flew by Harrods helicopter to the Derbyshire home of Rita Rogers, medium, apparently, to the mega-rich.

Dodi and the Princess emerged beaming, having clearly been told some Good News by Rita, who, while claiming never to snitch on her clients (the Duchess of York is also among their number) is nevertheless in the process of writing her autobiography. The Princess is not noted for the acuity of her character judgment, clairvoyant or otherwise. Some years ago, I was dispatched to Surbiton by the newspaper for which I then worked, with instructions to have a "session" with clairvoyant Betty Patko, who was reportedly giving the then troubled Princess — still married, but in the throes of the "Squidgy tapes" farrago — the benefit of her otherworldly wisdom.

Betty, a grandmotherly figure with beady eyes, informed me that I had a lovely aura, a long life ahead of me and a recently deceased relative, an older man in uniform, keeping an eye on me from The Other Side. "Your father?" she suggested, tentatively. "No? Ah, then your grandfather." But both my grandfathers had died before I was born. Betty would brook none of this. "Well he is there," she said, firmly.

I departed none the wiser about the uniformed man and with a reinforced conviction that anyone who consults a clairvoyant needs their head examined. And I speak as one whose own head was in dire need of scrutiny when I embarked upon my own

It is easy to mock Diana for consulting a clairvoyant, but Sandra Parsons who has been there, and done that, sympathises

episode of medium madness ten years ago.

The New York incident, as I call it, was prompted by my engagement to Chuck (yes, really), a lanky, good-looking American who was kind, decent, and, it has to be said, wealthy. But despite the fact that he had given me a stunning diamond the size of a Malteser and that his parents adored me, I could not rid myself of the increasingly uncomfortable thought that I had made a hideous mistake.

Matters came to a head one Thanksgiving when, at a family dinner, I had a sudden, appalling vision of this being it for the next 60 years. Thousands of miles away from my own family and friends, I took myself off the next day to Greenwich Village for retail solace and time to think. And then I saw it. On a huge corner site, the pink neon sign said CLAIRVOYANT.

I was through the door before you could say batty, and endured an unrelenting 45 minutes which ended with the woman saying that I was clearly in need of help and that for an additional \$200 she would gladly

do some extra work with her crystal ball. I told her she could keep that for other poor suckers and stalked out.

But by now I was hooked. Stupid, I reasoned, to have gone somewhere so commercial. Real clairvoyants, I told myself, were more discreet. I searched the Village sidestreets before deciding upon a narrow brownstone bearing the minutest of "clairvoyant and medium" signs.

A dishevelled blonde opened the door and announced that she was doing her Hoovering, which for some ridiculous reason convinced me she must be genuine. Mercifully, I have forgotten her name. She was unable to help on the question of my future marriage, but did tell me that within the year someone close to me would die.

She also told me that when I got back to England, I should immediately buy three red roses, and for three consecutive nights have a bath, sprinkling the petals in the water. After each bath I was to wrap the petals in aluminium foil, and at the end of the three days, post them to her.

I know, I know. But I did it. A few days later, I was woken by the

phone at 7am — 2am New York time. It was the clairvoyant, "Sandra, thanks for the petals. I've been up all night chanting for you, and I have to tell you I know what your problem is. Your aura is cracked, badly."

She paused for me to assimilate this terrible news. "I can heal it for you, but it won't be easy. I'm going to have to use real gold, and you know that's not cheap. We're talking \$5,000."

The more I laughed, the more offended she became. "Sandra, if it was your roof, or your car, you'd do it, wouldn't you? This is your aura we're talking about. This is serious."

I hung up on her and came to my senses. I handed back the diamond to my erstwhile fiancée and finally renounced all lurking belief in clairvoyants when, a year on, no one close to me had died.

A few years later, I was round at a friend's for tea when her immensely down-to-earth Australian nanny suggested she give me a tarot card reading. I told her I thought such things were nonsense but let her do it anyway. "This is amazing," she said, pointing out various cards. "You are going to meet and marry a wonderful man who is younger than you. You will have children. You will be insanely happy. You lucky, lucky thing."

I snorted my disbelief and forgot all about it. Within the year I had met, fallen in love with and married my husband, who is five years younger than me. We have a daughter. We are (touch wood, not that I'm superstitious, of course) insanely happy.

As I said, easy to sneer at the Princess. But, for me at least, easier still to understand.

THE TIMES CHALLENGE OF THE MIND

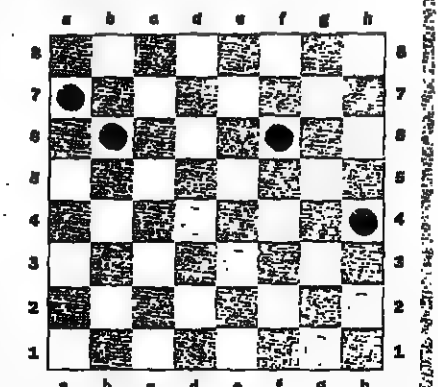
Week two of *The Times Challenge of the Mind* competition with £10,000 worth of prizes to be won. The competition, to coincide with the first Mind Sports Olympiad, invites you to test your wits. Every day this week we will set you a number of puzzles to get you thinking. For further details of the Mind Sports Olympiad, at the Royal Festival Hall, London, from August 18 to 24, and how to enter, call 0171-703 2828.

£500 DRAUGHTS PROBLEM by Paul Lamford

Draughts, known as checkers in the US, appears to be descended from Alquerque, which dates from 1400 BC. The modern version is played on an 8x8 board and 12 checkers of each colour are placed on the back squares of the first three ranks nearest the player. The object of the game is to capture all your opponent's men, or make the opponent's remaining pieces immobile. Single checkers move diagonally forward one square at a time. They capture by jumping diagonally over the opponent's checker, or checkers, when a space is vacant behind each checker. A capture must always be made if possible. When a single checker reaches the opponent's back rank it is promoted to a king and can move and capture diagonally, either forwards or backwards.

In the diagram White can force a winning position. Which of these moves should he play?

a) d4-c5 b) h2-g3 c) e3-f4
Call 0891 102 724 (ex UK 44 990 200 618) before midnight tonight with your answer, a, b or c. The winner will get £500 and three runners-up will receive a £50 voucher, donated by Hamleys for use in its Regent Street or Covent



Garden stores. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received and the answer will be published on Friday. Normal TNL competition rules apply. 0891 call cost 50p a minute.

£10,000 worth of prizes to be won

There's £100 to be won today with this ten-minute Mensa teaser. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Call 0891 102 725 (ex UK 44 990 200 619). 0891 calls cost 50p per minute. All readers who get two or three of today's Mensa puzzles correct will receive a certificate and a Mensa information pack which includes a home IQ assessment test.

TEN MINUTE MENSA PROBLEM

Q1. Replace each dot of the 10x10 grid with a word which forms two longer words in each case. What are the missing words?

BLUE	NECK	WING	KING
------	------	------	------

Q2. My FIRST to be ACT has not to PLAY
My SECOND to be APPEAL has not to HATE
My THIRD to be VIOLENCE has not to be LIES
My FOURTH to be CHASE has not to be DRINKS
My FIFTH to be EVIDENCE has not to be HATE

What am I?

Q3. A word along with 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, 1280, 1290, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1380, 1390, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090, 2100, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 2200, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2290, 2300, 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2350, 2360, 2370, 2380, 2390, 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460, 2470, 2480, 2490, 2500, 2510, 2520, 2530, 2540, 2550, 2560, 2570, 2580, 2590, 2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2650, 2660, 2670, 2680, 2690, 2700, 2710, 2720, 2730, 2740, 2750, 2760, 2770, 2780, 2790, 2800, 2810, 2820, 2830, 2840, 2850, 2860, 2870, 2880, 2890, 2900, 2910, 2920, 2930, 2940, 2950, 2960, 2970, 2980, 2990, 3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3390, 3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, 3450, 3460, 3470, 3480, 3490, 3500, 3510, 3520, 3530, 3540, 3550, 3560, 3570, 3580, 3590, 3600, 3610, 3620, 3630, 3640, 3650, 3660, 3670, 3680, 3690, 3700, 3710, 3720, 3730, 3740, 3750, 3760, 3770, 3780, 3790, 3800, 3810, 3820, 3830, 3840, 3850, 3860, 3870, 3880, 3890, 3900, 3910, 3920, 3930, 3940, 3950, 3960, 3970, 3980, 3990, 4000, 4010, 4020, 4030, 4040, 4050, 4060, 4070, 4080, 4090, 4100, 4110, 4120, 4130, 4140, 4150, 4160, 4170, 4180, 4190, 4200, 4210, 4220, 4230, 4240, 4250, 4260, 4270, 4280, 4290, 4300, 4310, 4320, 4330, 4340, 4350, 4360, 4370, 4380, 4390, 4400, 4410, 4420, 4430, 4440, 4450, 4460, 4470, 4480, 4490, 4500, 4510, 4520, 4530, 4540, 4550, 4560, 4570, 4580, 4590, 4600, 4610, 4620, 4630, 4640, 4650, 4660, 4670, 4680, 4690, 4700, 4710, 4720, 4730, 4740, 4750, 4760, 4770, 4780, 4790, 4800, 4810, 4820, 4830, 4840, 4850, 4860, 4870, 4880, 4890, 4900, 4910, 4920, 4930, 4940, 4950, 4960, 4970, 4980, 4990, 5000, 5010, 5020, 5030, 5040, 5050, 5060, 5070, 5080, 5090, 5100, 5110, 5120, 5130, 5140, 5150, 5160, 5170, 5180, 5190, 5200, 5210, 5220, 5230, 5240, 5250, 5260, 5270, 5280, 5290, 5300, 5310, 5320, 5330, 5340, 5350, 5360, 5370, 5380, 5390, 5400, 5410, 5420, 5430, 5440, 5450, 5460, 5470, 5480, 5490, 5500, 5510, 5520, 5530, 5540, 5550, 5560, 5570, 5580, 5590, 5600, 5610, 5620, 5630, 5640, 5650, 5660, 5670, 5680, 5690, 5700, 5710, 5720, 5730, 5740, 5750, 5760, 5770, 5780, 5790, 5800, 5810, 5820, 5830, 5840, 5850, 5860, 5870, 5880, 5890, 5900, 5910, 5920, 5930, 5940, 5950, 5960, 5970, 5980, 5990, 6000, 6010, 6020, 6030, 6040, 6050, 6060, 6070, 6080, 6090, 6100, 6110, 6120, 6130, 6140, 6150, 6160, 6170, 6180, 6190, 6200, 6210, 6220, 6230, 6240, 6250, 6260, 6270, 6280, 6290, 6300, 6310, 6320, 6330, 6340, 6350, 6360, 6370, 6380, 6390, 6400, 6410, 6420, 6430, 6440, 6450, 6460, 6470, 6480, 6490, 6500, 6510, 6520, 6530, 6540, 6550, 6560, 6570, 6580, 6590, 6600, 6610, 6620, 6630, 6640, 6650, 6660, 6670, 6680, 6690, 6700, 6710, 6720, 6730, 6740, 6750, 6760, 6770, 6780, 6790, 6800, 6810, 6820, 6830, 6840, 6850, 6860, 6870, 6880, 6890, 6900, 6910, 6920, 6930, 6940, 6950, 6960, 6970, 6980, 6990, 7000, 7010, 7020, 7030, 7040, 7050, 7060, 7070, 7080, 7090, 7100, 7110, 7120, 7130, 7140, 7150, 7160, 7170, 7180, 7190, 7200, 7210, 7220, 7230, 7240, 7250, 7260, 7270, 7280, 7290, 7300, 7310, 7320, 7330, 7340, 7350, 7360, 7370, 7380, 7390, 7400, 7410, 7420, 7430, 7440, 7450, 7460, 7470, 7480, 7490, 7500, 7510, 7520, 7530, 7540, 7550, 7560, 7570, 7580, 7590, 7600, 7610, 7620, 7630, 7640, 7650, 7660, 7670, 7680, 7690, 7700, 7710, 7720, 7730, 7740, 7750, 7760, 7770, 7780, 7790, 7800, 7810, 7820, 7830, 7840, 7850, 7860, 7870, 7880, 7890, 7900, 7910, 7920, 7930, 7940, 7950, 7960, 7970, 7980, 7990, 8000, 8010, 8020, 8030, 8040, 8050, 8060, 8070, 8080, 8090, 8100, 8110, 8120, 8130, 8140, 8150, 8160, 8170, 8180, 8190, 8200, 8210, 8220, 8230, 8240, 8250, 8260, 8270, 8280, 8290, 8300, 8310, 8320, 8330, 8340, 8350, 8360, 8370, 8380, 8390, 8400, 8410, 8420, 8430, 8440, 8450, 8460, 8470, 8480, 8490, 8500, 8510, 8520, 8530, 8540, 8550, 8560, 8570, 8580, 8590, 8600, 8610, 8620, 8630, 8640, 8650, 8660, 8670, 8680, 8690, 8700, 8710, 8720, 8730, 8740, 87

A bridge for the gap year

Tessa Blackstone explains the new deal on grants

Today hundreds of thousands of anxious 18-year-olds will learn their A-level results. I offer my congratulations to those who have gained what they hoped for — and to those who have not. It is important that they look at all available options, from alternative courses to repeating next year.

The results show continuing high levels of achievement, with an overall pass rate of more than 87 per cent. Nearly half of young people now achieve a qualification at this level, but we must do significantly better if we are to succeed as a nation in the next century, with more young people gaining either A levels or equivalent vocational qualifications.

This year we are able to refuse one of the more damaging canards levelled at A levels. It cannot assist young people's self-esteem to be told that their exams are watered-down versions of those taken 20 or 30 years ago. Ofsted and the schools curriculum authority have thoroughly examined these claims and have concluded that standards in A levels and GCSEs have remained broadly the same for 20 years.

I am determined to ensure that the standards of our national qualifications continue to be rigorously maintained. We have already taken action on this, including rationalising the examination awarding bodies and reducing the enormous proliferation of A-level syllabuses.

We will be consulting in the autumn on how best to meet our commitment to support broader A levels and upgraded vocational qualifications, underpinned by rigorous standards and key skills. The report in yesterday's *Guardian* that we plan to "axe" A levels is silly seasonal nonsense.

Full-time students going to university this year will do so in a system where tuition remains free, although part-timers and further education college students have always faced fees. The Government has inherited a university system with a funding crisis. If we did not address funding for the future, access would be curtailed, and quality seriously affected.

Last month we responded to the independent Dearing committee's recommendations by announcing changes to student maintenance and introducing fees. The contribution which parents have to make, taking into account both fees and maintenance, will not be any bigger next year than this year. In addition, students from less well-off families will not have to pay fees.

It is important this point is repeated. There will be extra maintenance loans available to students at a zero real rate of interest. Repayment periods will be considerably more generous than under the present loans scheme, and will be related to ability to repay. It is important that students and their parents understand the new scheme, because there has been a lot of poor advice around in the past few weeks.

Last week we had available for the first time figures on gap-year students. About 19,000 young people have decided to apply for a place at university in 1998 instead of 1997 in order to take a year off. Many of them will be doing voluntary work. They will have been promised a place for 1998 conditional on their examination results. We have given particular consideration to this group since those figures became available.

We want to encourage volunteering. Thousands of young people each year work on environmental or social projects at home or in developing countries. Those who have taken up such opportunities already, and who have a conditional place for next year, will be treated exactly as if they had started in higher education this year — the same mix of loans and grants, and no tuition fees. We will also be examining ways to encourage more volunteering in the future. Many students will undertake valuable work experience in preparation for their course of study. Some will be volunteering in situations not covered by the major national organisations. Others may simply be travelling around the world.

For reasons both of fairness and administrative simplicity, we have therefore decided to place all 19,000 gap-year students who have already applied for a deferred place under the same rules. If they have received a firm or conditional offer of a place by August 1 for 1998 based on this year's results — and they meet the university's requirements — they will be treated as if they started university in autumn 1997 in terms of both fees and maintenance.

In considering new funding arrangements, equity and fairness have been our watchwords. They have helped to inform what I believe everyone will recognise to be a sensible and fair way forward for all students, including those taking a gap year.

Baroness Blackstone is Minister of State for Education and Employment.

Attempts to sustain the myth of gentlemanly cricket may be damaging our prospects, says Magnus Linklater

Can we afford to play the game any longer?

Perhaps it is time we stopped being shocked by cricketers behaving badly. There comes a point when thundering epithets such as "disgraceful", "shameful" or "unforgivable" — all to be read yesterday after the ill-tempered NatWest semi-final — become as predictable as a four-ball bounce from a frustrated seam bowler. With cricket these days being driven as hard as any other sport by big money and competitive pressure, why should we be surprised by incidents which, on the football field, would merit little more than a free kick and a wagging finger from the referee?

Because, sir, cricket is more than just a game. It is a way of life. Because, like nurses cycling through the dawn and warm beer in village pubs, it stands for certain standards of what we once called civilised behaviour. Because, as Lord Harris, one-time President of the MCC, wrote to *The Times* on his 80th birthday in 1931: "It is more free from anything sordid, anything dishonourable, than any game in the world. To play it keenly, honourably, generously, self-sacrificingly, is a moral lesson in itself, and the classroom is God's air and sunshine."

I wonder, I wonder, in particular, how long we can maintain the fiction of cricket as a moral benchmark in these days of "sledding", ball-tampering, and English cricket captains vouchsafing such sentiments as "You are a

awful umpire". There comes a point where myth and reality strain so hard in opposite directions that the myth ceases even to be ironic. These days to say "it isn't quite cricket" is to invite the response "... and just as well, too".

It may even be the case that this uneven struggle to maintain the gentlemanly aspect of the game has become a positive barrier to the improvement of cricket in England. In Australia it has been a byword for infamous behaviour ever since Dennis Lillee booted Javed Miandad in the backside in the 1981 Pakistani Test series and Miandad threatened him with his bat. My 1982 *Wisden* called it "the reflection of a graceless age" and said that true cricketers had been "sickened by Lillee's antics". That may or may not have been the case, but far from it being judged a moral cancer at the heart of cricket, Australia has progressed to become the best Test team in the world, hammering an abject England into the ground, while Lillee himself is welcomed as an honoured guest in the commentators' box, where he swaps bantering remarks about the state of English cricket with Geoffrey Boycott. Yesterday's thug is today's elder statesman.

There is much hypocrisy at the heart of this dispute. Everybody who was at the Essex-Chelmsford match on Tuesday admitted that it was a nail-biting contest between two sides motivated by the utmost animosity, both of them determined to win. Alan Lee reported in *The Times* that "the entire game had been combustible, though much of it was of compelling quality".

Throughout the afternoon it was punctuated by incidents which exacerbated the tension, including a fearsome bouncer which struck the Essex batsman Stuart Law on the arm. When, in fading light, the game was called off with only six overs to go, two wickets to fall and six runs to get, there was, not surprisingly, edginess among the players.

But as the jostling began, the commentators fell back on the usual expressions of simulated anguish. "That

was as ugly a scene as I would wish to witness," said Tony Lewis. "A disgraceful climax," reported the *Express*. "The shameful semi-final scenes at Chelmsford shocked millions of fans," complained the *Evening Standard*. Really? I bet most of those fans would have given their eye teeth to have been there themselves. It is just this kind of nerve-tangling contest that has won a whole new generation of fans over to what is now a mass-spectator sport. The high drama of the one-day game has, equally inevitably, attracted large sums of money, bringing further pressure to win at all costs. "My players' willingness to fight has been brilliant," was the comment of Matthew Maynard, the Chelmsford captain, and that was a far more honest comment on the game.

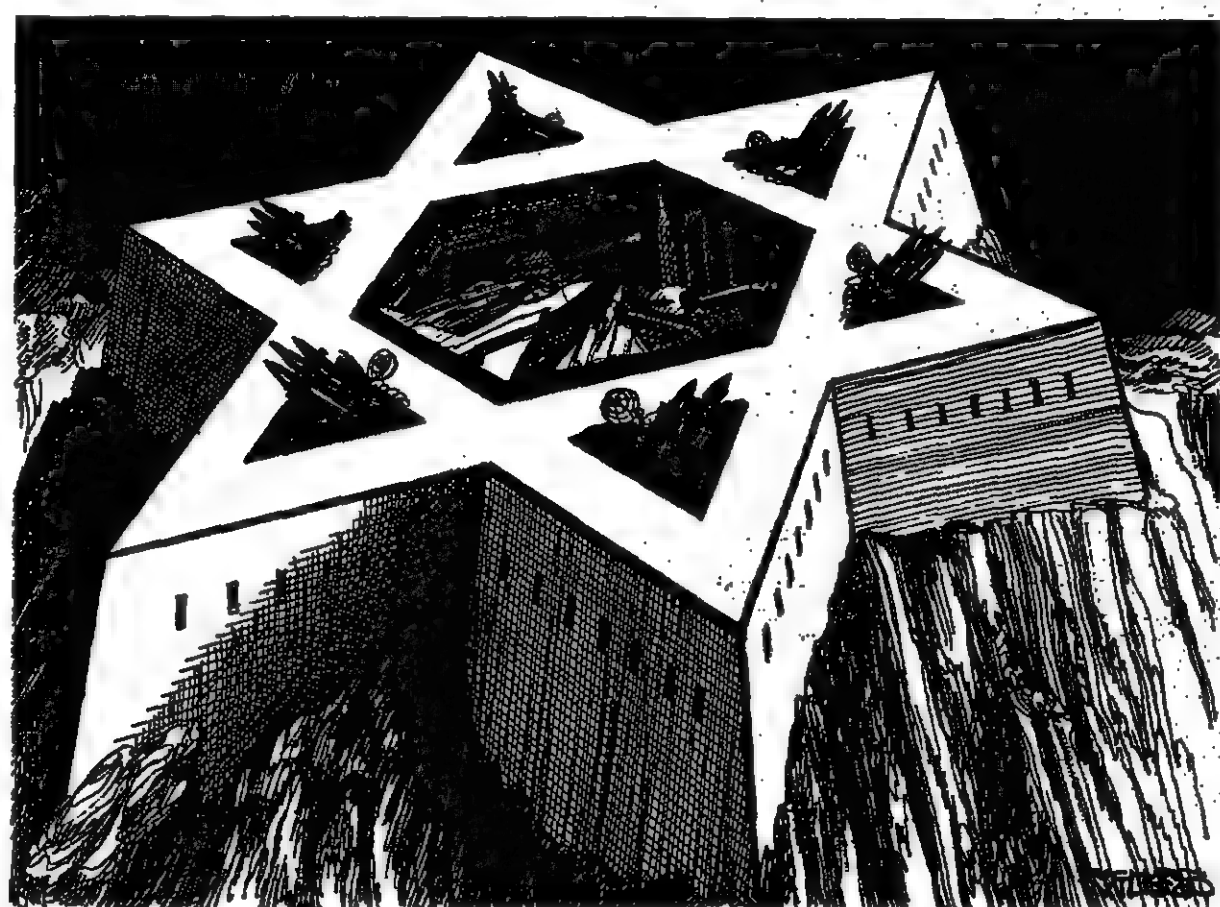
You cannot turn the clock back. Nor, I guess, can you sustain that level of competitive animosity on the field without the occasional outburst of crude and even violent behaviour. Of course it has to be controlled. I doubt if even the most avid of fans wants to see matters

deteriorate to the point where an outraged bowler takes a Mike Tyson-style bite out of the umpire's ear simply because he has turned down an lbw appeal. I would not like to encourage the awful baiting of players as they reach the crease, or the bad-mannered petulance of bowlers when their hysterical appeals are turned down. But there are ways of dealing with these things, rather as fake injuries or dissent have been handled on the football field. Perhaps, indeed, if the cricketing authorities could bring themselves to consider it, football has some useful lessons to impart. It would not, for instance, spell the end of civilisation as we know it if umpires were given the right to hand out yellow cards, or send a player off. The sooner we realise that cricket is no longer a nostalgic paradigm for a long-lost England the better. It is, in the end, just a game — a very exciting, absorbing and intense game which English players would very much like to win rather more often than they do.

And is this so-called deterioration all that new in any case? Didn't the greatest of English cricketers, W.G. Grace, once replace his left ball after it had been knocked off by the bowler, and then blame it on the wind? In terms of sportsmanship, that was infinitely worse than anything that took place at Chelmsford on Tuesday. Yet in those days England was considered a top nation.

The unpromising land of Zion

We still live with the legacy of fin-de-siècle Vienna: Hitler's anti-Semitism led to the Holocaust; Herzl's Zionism led to Israel. But can a Jewish nation state now offer Jews security?



William Rees-Mogg

covered the anti-Semitic Dreyfus case in Paris. His Austrian and French experience convinced him that Jews would never be safe except in their own country, where they could defend themselves. He believed that assimilation would not provide Jews with security against anti-Semitism, but that a Jewish nation state could.

Herzl himself was a thoroughly assimilated intellectual. In advocating a Jewish state he was opposing many of the assumptions of 19th-century liberalism and non-religious Jews. As early as 1845, the conference of Reform rabbis at Frankfurt had deleted from the ritual all prayers for a return to Zion and a restoration of a Jewish state. The Philadelphia Reform Conference of 1869 followed the lead of the German rabbis and declared that the messianic hope of Judaism is "the union of all the children of God in the confession of the unity of God".

Herzl put together a coalition of assimilated Jews who believed in Jewish nationalism with Orthodox Jews, many

of them living in great poverty in Eastern Europe and Russia, who believed in the tradition of the return to Zion. He was opposed by many liberal Jewish intellectuals of the period, and by most of the wealthiest Jews, though they gave generous charitable support to Jewish settlements in Palestine. It was the Holocaust which convinced the great majority that Herzl was right. He had said that assimilation could not protect European Jews from the anti-Semitism he had seen in Paris and Vienna, and a Viennese anti-Semitic student, Adolf Hitler, had grown up to murder some six million European Jews, assimilated and unassimilated alike.

The Holocaust and the independent

state of Israel belonged to the same decade of history, the 1940s. Without the Nazi persecution, which even in the 1930s was recruiting supporters for Zionism and emigrants to Palestine, it is doubtful whether Herzl's idea of a Jewish state could have been realised, even with the support of the Balfour Declaration of 1917. Hitler, who should never be underrated as a judge of geopolitical possibilities, thought that "the attempt to create a Jewish state will be a failure".

Israel is a remarkable society, in many ways an admirable one. Yet a century after the first Zionist Congress and nearly 50 years after Israel's Declaration of Independence, the permanent security of the state of Israel remains in question. We know that Herzl was right in his belief that assimilation could not protect the European Jews from anti-Semitism. The Holocaust vindicated his fears. What we do not know is whether the second part of Herzl's judgment was correct. If assimilation cannot protect Jews, does

it follow that the nation state can do so? This is what makes the peace process so important: Israel can provide security for its people only if it can win peace with its neighbours. The peace process is obviously not going well. Suicide bombings and mass riots have alienated Israelis; the Israeli blockade has alienated Palestinians. There is deep distrust on both sides.

The Israeli population is not itself the community that Herzl foresaw. European and American Jews, who are the children of the European Enlightenment, are now in a minority. The majority are either born in Israel, or of Russian or Middle Eastern descent. This has some advantages, in that their culture may be closer to that of the neighbouring Arab countries. It has the disadvantage that the assimilated Jews of the first post-1948 generation, such as Abba Eban or Foreign Minister, were among the original doves of peace.

After 50 years as an independent state, Israel is looking to the next 50 years. Israelis cannot predict what will happen to the politics of the Arab world, but most of them are pessimistic. They do not regard neighbouring Arab states as politically stable, yet a change of regime, particularly in Egypt or Saudi Arabia, would almost certainly damage Israel. They do not trust Yasser Arafat's Palestinian regime. That makes them reluctant to offer further concessions for a peace settlement which could be invalidated by some unpredictable change in the Arab power structure.

Israel is heavily dependent on the United States; American power protects Israel in the Middle East, just as it protects Taiwan in the far Pacific. Both Israel and Taiwan feel concerned about their protection. How long will the United States be able to project such global power? A British guarantee given in 1910 would have been much more impressive than one given in 1960. Will the balance of power in 50 years allow the United States to guarantee the security of a small country in the Eastern Mediterranean? Will the next nine American Presidents be as loyal to Israel as the past nine? Can Israel rely on the help of a European Union, when Europe, only 50 years ago, was the scene of the Holocaust?

Some of the Jews of Herzl's own kind, living an assimilated life in Britain or in the United States, have remained supporters with cash and speeches, but now have a terrible fear that Herzl was wrong, that the nation state itself is more of a danger than a security for the Jewish people. Certainly the culture of the Western and the Israeli Jewish communities seems to be moving further apart. Israel has the continuing support of a world Jewish community which no longer has any wish to live in Israel.

A rum tale

THERE is trouble among the coconut palms of the Caribbean island of St. Lucia. It involves Princess Margaret's great friend Lord Glenconner, an elephant called Bupa and a former British champion in the martial art of tai chi.

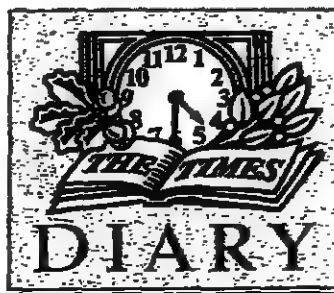
Lord Glenconner has lived in self-imposed exile in Caribbean for years, investing much of the substantial wealth he inherited as head of the Tennant family into making

Musique and then St. Lucia fashionable with royalty and rock stars. Recently, however, he has had more than his fair share of legal and financial problems on the islands and now runs a jerk chicken shack and rum shop.

Michael Jacques, a tai chi instructor, is claiming that Glenconner approached him about the possibility of leasing his property on St. Lucia and buying up some of his land. Glenconner used to keep an elephant called Bupa on the island. "He wanted a home for his elephant handler," says Jacques, "and to build a road to link his business on the Jalouise beach beneath my property. At first I thought it was great — Lord Glenconner renting my house!"

Now, however, Jacques is claiming that Glenconner has taken too much land, even though the papers, when were drawn up, did not stipulate just how much of the property the peer was allowed to have. Jacques wants the return of the land, which was left to him by his grandfather.

From St. Lucia, Glenconner says: "It is not my concern. It has



nothing to do with me." The suit is expected to come before St. Lucia's High Court this month.

Shivers ran through the Vatican the other day as a party of country clergy was paying a visit to St. Peter's, among them an 80-year-old parish priest who had spent most of his career as an exorcist. When the Pope came out to welcome the party, he recognised the old man and greeted him, saying with a smile: "Are there any devils in the Vatican?" "Yes," the priest replied gravely, "there are lots of them."

Chop phoeey

WRITING in this week's issue of *Country Life*, David Tang, the hyperactive Hong Kong businessman and friend of the Duchess of York,

has adopted a style somewhere between James Joyce and a particularly impenetrable Chinese restaurant menu. Doubtless while puffing on one of his omnipresent cigars, he has written a review of *The Last Governor*, Jonathan Dimbleby's new book on Chris Patten's tenure as Governor of Hong Kong. "A chopsey of Alan Clark and Anthony Trollope," Tang writes, "hotly stirred and quickly served up by a Roswell. But it doesn't taste all that good — some of the ingredients were found to be



"I'm sorry, someone seems to have enhanced the images in my crystal ball"

off: Cradock, Howe, Heseltine and many other mandarins from the Foreign Office. Small wonder that they are now complaining that the really nasty taste to the dish comes from the main ingredient: Patten himself, made all the more indigestible by cook Dimbleby. But it is far too early to tell whose bitterness is justified. History takes a bit longer to swallow and taste." Like the reviewer's writing.

Premiership

LAST night saw a five-a-side football match in Tuscany between a team from Tony Blair's house-party and one from the local village. The England side in this prelude to the World Cup game against Italy which takes place later this year, included the Prime Minister, his two footballing sons, Euan and Nicholas, who have attended official receptions on this holiday clashing their footballs, and a couple of their bodyguards.

The match was played in the early evening, but a grimly resolute Downing Street said it would not be revealing the score.

Odourless

AUGUST brings news from Kew Gardens and the remarkable titan

arum plant which last year, as this *Diary* reported, produced no leaves, but rather flowers and a smell combining rotten flesh and burnt sugar. The so-called corpse plant, which looks like a giant exploding leek, drew an extra 20,000 visitors and the world's press to Kew in 1996. This year, it has another surprise.

The Ilk tuber has sprouted incredible towering leaves, but no flowers. "Sir David Attenborough is fascinated by the thing," says a spokesman at the gardens. He visits the gardens regularly to check on its progress. "It is such an unusual plant — rare even in its native Sumatra. So rare in fact that even Sumatrans have been coming here to look at it."

Paris heroes

A MOVING new ceremony will be incorporated into this year's commemoration of the Allied liberation of Paris, which took place on August 25, 1944. Eighty French actors and actresses will take up their positions outside the Museum of the Rights of Man from midnight until midnight, from where they will read out the names of all those non-Frenchmen who died in defence of France, but not as members of the conscript armies. Foreign Resistance fighters will make up the



Jane Birkin: paying tribute

bulk of them. No mention will be made, however, of their particular nationalities or wartime activities. The reading is the brainwave of a new organisation called "L'Association du Mémorial Vivant", which has the backing of the British theatre director, Peter Brook and the actress Jane Birkin, both of whom live in France.

The association plans to continue this activity next year on May 8 (the day of celebration of the Allied victory), and on the same site in Paris, and is keen to hear of any names, who may not have made the first list.

P.H.S



Lord Glenconner: "Who, me?"



JINNAH'S LEGACY

A great nation with too little to celebrate

Pakistan today marks its fiftieth birthday. From market, mosque and municipal hall speeches, ceremonies and official jubilation will recall the tense but heady moment in 1947 when the improbable vision of Mohammed Ali Jinnah became a reality. A new state, conceived as a bastion of Islam in the sub-continent, was born. But 50 years after the bloodshed and carnage, the awful accompaniment to the wrenching division of British India, even Pakistanis are wondering what there is to celebrate.

In a sombre message to be broadcast today, President Leghari recalls that democracy was the spirit of August 14, 1947, when Pakistan came into being, a day ahead of independent India. But he notes that even while celebrating the nation's freedom, the triumphant Dr Jinnah predicted "the grimmer battle for preservation of that freedom and building it on a firmer and sounder basis". That battle is still being fought. Indeed, as Mr Leghari admits with humbling honesty, despite half a century of economic growth, the fate of the common citizen has not changed much. Unemployment, illiteracy, malnutrition and pollution are common; a gulf still yawns between rich and poor. The President exhorts his country to pause and ponder the question: "What has gone wrong down the road?"

He himself gives some of the answers. He speaks of a population explosion that is eating up every industrial and agricultural gain; of the need for well-defined social policies and "efficient and effective" laws and strong institutions; of the unresolved Kashmir dispute that has bedevilled relations between Pakistan and India and the heavy toll of the Afghan war. He confronts the nadir to which the nation's morale has now sunk. With its Churchillian echoes of tears and sacrifice, his speech is both a bleak assessment of a nation that has lost its way and a challenge to country and Government to make a fresh start.

The statistics reinforce the sense of gloom. Pakistan is a country where soldiers out-

number doctors nine to one. A quarter of its 130 million people live in poverty. Only 36 per cent of the population can read or write, and among the women of Balochistan literacy is 2 per cent. An international monitoring group includes Pakistan among the world's most corrupt countries. Most of its land and wealth is controlled by a mere 400 families. Defence spending and interest on the £18 billion foreign debt consume over half the national budget. And a recent survey found that almost half the nation would prefer a return to military rule, the form of government for 24 of Pakistan's 50 years.

All this falls sadly short of the principles Dr Jinnah pursued with such single-minded obstinacy. But many of Pakistan's current difficulties lie in that very pursuit. For the country's *raison d'être* was a theocratic rather than cultural, linguistic or geographical concept. Divided into two wings a thousand miles apart, the central Government spent the first 24 years trying to juggle the interests and budget of East and West with predictably disastrous results. And when Bangladesh broke away after a fratricidal war, the dislocation to the body politic led to the hanging of Pakistan's subsequent Prime Minister and a new period of military rule.

Yet in contemplating their unfulfilled promise, Pakistanis can take some comfort. They inherited a functioning civil service, a sound legal system and a well-trained army which is an asset so long as it stays out of politics. They have shown a resilient attachment to democracy despite the blows against it. They have proved, in their diaspora and in industry and research, able entrepreneurs. They have a deep moral attachment to family, religion and community. And, despite the setbacks, they have built up a sense of nationhood that shows itself most exuberantly on the cricket pitch. Britain was a midwife at the country's difficult birth. It has a profound interest in Pakistan's success in moving into the next century with the prosperity and security that have eluded it for too long.

OUT OF THE TRAP

The day of reckoning has been eased for some students

This morning will not be a comfortable one in many households. At few points in life does so much depend upon what is revealed in so few seconds. As they awaited the A-level results, parents as well as students have spent the past two months with the shadow of the examiner at their shoulder. For some the anguish will be over and their plans can now be implemented. Others will be left in a state of considerable uncertainty. The clearing process may prove at least as testing as the weeks that have preceded it. The Times will do what it can to soothe that stress with a service which begins today with our 16-page supplement, providing a comprehensive compendium of courses.

Each year the competition for available places seems to intensify. This reflects the rising numbers who pass A-levels. There is a legitimate debate about whether this examination now stretches students enough, but that should not detract from the individual achievements that will be rightly celebrated. Students can only deal with the exams they have been set. Many thousands of families who until now have never seen a son or daughter enter higher education will shortly have that experience.

This year an additional element has complicated calculations. As *The Times* was the first to note, the decisions taken by the Government in the light of the Dearing report created an injustice for gap-year students. Having applied, been offered, and accepted conditional places under one type of funding rules, they suddenly found that these had been altered. As that penny, or rather tens of thousands of pennies, dropped, the students concerned seemed likely to abandon plans for a free year before university and swamp the clearing system.

WHEN WERE YOU BORN?

Mystics clearly have a great future

Astrology is the second oldest profession — almost as lucrative as the first and much more respectable. Diana, Princess of Wales, is only the latest public figure to find herself gazing into the heavens for a glimpse of the future. In the Bard's Ancient Rome, Cassius consoled Brutus with the thought that their fault lay not in themselves but in their stars. Modern India was born at midnight 50 years ago on the advice of a guru. Ronald Reagan chose the same witching hour for his inauguration as Governor of California on the advice of his wife Nancy's psychic sidekick. It is easy to mock but those gifted with the second sight such as Rita Rogers, the Paisley Romany, perform a valuable service. They know the great truth at the heart of all horoscopes, the eternal mystery of the timing which governs emergence from the womb — there is one born every minute.

There is another truth to which the best psychics are privy. Given the overlap between their address books and Nigel Dempsters they are all too conscious that the wicked fairy often sprinkles gullible dust as liberally in the well-appointed private room as the overcrowded public ward. The Duchess of York's robust scepticism towards the constricting nonsense of the Court did not prevent her squeezing herself into the glass pyramid of Madame Vasso, of course,

not the only venerable Egyptian treasures which have captivated a Princess.

It is in affairs of the heart that the psychic comes into her own. Whether it is by the turn of the tarot or through a glass darkly, the mystic can scry the features of the favoured son. Curiously, the man most will marry is never short, pallid and ugly and always possessed of a nice personality. It may be the distorting curve of the crystal, or the gloom of the consulting room with only a guttering Bunsen burner for illumination, but the intended always looks more coffee than tea. The man in the ball inevitably has the swarthy appeal of an Annabel's Omar Sharif or Brumpton Road Sultan. So, a girl might think, if the stars dictate surrender to the East then why not accept fate's decree? A kiss on the Med is just Kismet.

Psychics, like management consultants, may speak in meaningless gobbledegook, charge outrageous hourly rates and still tell their customers exactly what they want to hear but both, like the bacteria in the lower gut, are useful parasites. They redistribute money from the undeserving and idle rich more effectively than any sumptuary tax yet levied. Both callings also provide employment for those souls insufficiently rigorous for the professions, but not creative enough for the arts. There is, clearly, still a great future in clairvoyance.

Teenagers and the risk of pregnancy

From Miss Barbara Hewson

Sir, I see that the Government plans to target schoolgirls "at risk" of pregnancy, with a view to educating them about the perils of premature parenthood (report, later editions, August 11). What is it planning to teach them: "Just say No?"

Surely a Labour Government should also tackle the behaviour of the men responsible for impregnating these young girls? Birth control is not an exclusively female issue, and teenage pregnancy should not be seen as a girl's problem.

Britain comes second only to the US, which has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the industrialised world. Both countries' records are deplorable.

In the US, research carried out by the Alan Guttmacher Institute (1996) found that two thirds of teenage mothers were impregnated by adult males and that "almost half of 15-19 year-olds think that the average young person... does not have enough accurate information about sex and reproduction". Judging by the teenage pregnancy rate here, British teenagers are similarly lacking in information.

On July 31 the *Camden News Journal* reported that children as young as 11, 12 and 13 were seeking help in terminating unwanted pregnancies. That is appalling. It also suggests that our society fails to protect young girls from predatory sexual behaviour by some males, who do not care about preventing pregnancy, let alone protecting adolescents from premature sexual activity.

Labour will not solve the problem of teenage pregnancy unless it is prepared to instil socially responsible sexual attitudes and behaviour into men and boys as well.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA HEWSON,
12 Gray's Inn Square,
Gray's Inn, W.C1.
August 11.

From Councillor Dr Paul Walker

Sir, The Government's proposal of targeting under-achieving girls in secondary schools, with the aim of reducing the number of teenage pregnancies, and thus the cost to the public purse, represents a totally inadequate "sticking plaster" approach to a very serious problem.

Such an approach merely addresses what we epidemiologists term the proximal or immediate causes of the problem, namely the lack of knowledge about contraceptive methods and the failure to fully comprehend the magnitude of the responsibilities of parenthood. The underlying causes, namely the lack of self confidence, empowerment and career prospects, are not dealt with.

The Government's idea of targeting these girls is spot on; but what needs to be delivered is high-quality remedial general education by the very best teachers; not just sex education and warnings of the perils of premature parenthood. In this way they would stand some chance of developing the self-respect and hope which are the really effective contraceptives.

Sex education is, of course, important — for boys as well as girls; and it should start at an early age. But providing a good education to the less advantaged through affirmative action and preferential funding if need be is more important.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL WALKER,
8 Church Avenue,
Sneyd Park, Bristol.
August 13.

Call for commas

From Mrs D. Vaughan Meyrick

Sir, Thank you for publishing Derwent May's article on punctuation, "That's a hyphen, dash it" (August 8). As we now have a Government claiming to be concerned about education, the subject badly needs an airing.

Ignorance of grammar and punctuation today is the result of poor-quality education yesterday. Today's teachers cannot be justly blamed because so many of them were not taught such disciplines at school. The educational ideology of their school-days held that, left to themselves, children would find out what they thought they needed to know. This theory saved their teachers a lot of hard work and allowed pupils to express themselves by writing unreadable rubbish, without correction.

The pupils are now the teachers. Mr Blunkett expects them to teach grammar and punctuation. How?

Yours faithfully,
D. VAUGHAN MEYRICK
(Secondary schoolteacher, 1936-70),
2 Penrice House, The Crescent,
Cardiff Road, Llandaff, Cardiff.
August 8.

From Mr Andrew Tringham

Sir, Derwent May castigates those who omit commas before nouns, as in "2000". There may be a sound reason for this. In most of the Continent the comma in a number is not used to separate thousands, but decimals, so its inclusion is not always helpful; indeed, it could be misleading.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW TRINGHAM,
70 Havelock Road, Croydon, Surrey.
andrewtringham.demon.co.uk
August 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Tory lauds Dalyell's independence

From Sir Ian Lloyd

Sir, Magnus Linklater ("Parliamentarian at bay", August 12) has deployed a number of powerful arguments in support of the view that any attempt to deselect Tam Dalyell would reflect gravely on the reputation of his constituency party, the Labour Party in Parliament and, indeed, the House of Commons. As a former political opponent of Dalyell, I would like to deploy one further argument in his support.

The present House of Commons, like most of its predecessors, does not lack its ration of placemen, office-seekers and sycophants. Nor are future Parliaments likely to enjoy a healthy surfeit of independent-minded Members (of any political party or none).

The combination of knowledge, judgment, independence and political courage exercised in the public interest — which seldom coincides totally with the contemporary definition of that interest by the party in power — is comparatively rare in those seeking to enter the House. It will become more so if the exercise of these qualities by those who have managed to surmount the obstacles, both to entrance to Parliament and survival in it, are attacked by groups in their local party organisations who cannot claim in any sense to be representative.

None of those who served with Tam

Dalyell, however much we may have disagreed from time to time with his arguments, could possibly deny that he fitted precisely Burke's definition of the Member who owed his constituents, above all else, his independent judgment. But he has also made a further contribution to Parliament which is quite exceptional and of increasing importance.

All too few Members have shown any interest in the growing scope, significance and effects of science, to which the political establishments of all three parties tend to pay little more than lip service. Tam Dalyell's contribution to science policy and the public understanding of its significance in Parliament has invariably been knowledgeable, constructive and sustained. Few, if any, can match it.

Although my own political loyalties lie elsewhere, I would argue, on this record alone, quite apart from his immense vision on the Midlothian question, that if his constituency activists were to deselect him they would be doing a great disservice not only to Parliament but to science.

Yours faithfully,
IAN LLOYD
(Conservative MP, 1964-92),
Bakers House, Priors Dean,
Nr Petersfield, Hampshire.
ian@shelmalter.demon.co.uk
August 12.

Unravelling the housing chain

From Mr Lionel Bloch

Sir, The Adam Smith Institute's reported proposals for the simplification of house-buying (details, August 11) are unrealistic.

The delay and uncertainty involved in so many conveyancing transactions are caused primarily by the unwillingness of buyers to commit themselves until and unless they have found a purchaser for their own property. The infamous chain transactions are merely the inevitable consequence of the fact that a buyer needs the proceeds of sale of his existing home to pay for the acquisition of the new one.

The claim that there would be no dashed hopes or expectations is pernicious nonsense unless a purchaser is willing to enter into a commitment which he may be unable to honour without incurring the costs of a bridging loan for an indefinite period.

If solicitors advise against this risk they merely do their job. It is those who propose quixotic solutions who — to use the elegant expression of the institute — should be "taken by the scruff of the neck".

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL BLOCH (solicitor),
Halcyon, Ormond Avenue,
Richmond, Surrey.
August 11.

From Mr Paul Greenwood

Sir, The problem of gazumping [letters, August 4 and 9] would be reduced if vendors — with the assistance of their agents and solicitors — put their house in order before marketing it.

This is simple and entails obtaining the deeds from the building society, asking their solicitors to draw up a draft contract and a local search, and having a surveyor carry out a structural survey or house-buyer's report, as appropriate. The cost of the latter can be added to the purchase price, thus making the surveyor beholden to the purchaser.

A complete package for the purchaser's solicitors, coupled with an exclusivity agreement whereby the

vendor and purchaser undertake not to sell/buy for a short agreed period, will greatly reduce the delay between an offer being accepted and exchange of contracts (so long as no "chain" is involved). It will thus eliminate the chances of gazumping.

Purchasers can help their case by getting a mortgage offer subject to the property before they make an offer.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL GREENWOOD
(Managing Director),
Stacks (property consultants),
Kemble Farm, Minery,
Malmesbury, Wiltshire.
August 4.

From the Chief Executive of the Society of Licensed Conveyancers

Sir, Mr J. P. O'Brien (letter, August 4) is critical of the proposal aimed at reducing gazumping which would involve home-buyers and sellers providing a preliminary deposit upon reaching initial agreement to proceed, and which would then be forfeitable by the innocent party if the other was to withdraw without acceptable reason. He suggests that a simpler solution would be insurance, which would recompense the innocent party for lost legal and survey fees.

However, the main purpose of suggesting that an initial deposit be paid, subject to the terms of a simple standard preliminary agreement, would be to induce the parties, once they have agreed to proceed, to honour that agreement. The thought of losing a preliminary deposit of 0.5 per cent or 1 per cent of the agreed price may not prevent a seller from accepting a considerably higher offer; but the certainty of losing hard cash today, as opposed to the promise of a higher price tomorrow, would undoubtedly act as a powerful constraint.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL EWERT EVANS,
Chief Executive,
The Society of Licensed Conveyancers,
Chancery House,
35 Church Road, Croydon, Surrey.
August 8.

Mad prawns

From Colonel J. I. G. Capadose (ret'd)

Sir, Mr Peter Hungerford-Welch is alarmed by reading of "de-ranked" lawnmowers in Tonbridge (letter, August 12; also letter, August 13).

Let him not come up the road to Sevenoaks, where "mad tiger prawns" are sold over a supermarket fish counter. This exotic, if disconcerting, title appears on the little label spewed out by the weighing and pricing device, which cannot manage "Madagascar".

Perhaps his fears of Kentish vendors would be allayed, on the other hand, by buying a portion of the more prosaic and comforting "trad undyed hadd".

Yours faithfully,
JAMES CAPADOSE,
Breaches,
Vicarage Hill, Westerham, Kent.
August 12.

A trouble halved

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, Is it not refreshing to note that your report (August 4) of the possible threat to these shores from the malaria mosquito, *Anopheles gambiae*, and of the "mongrelisation" of the racial purity of the native honey bee, omits the now customary assurance of government spokesmen that troubles are but inheritances from their predecessors in office?

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HUMPHREY,
9 Offington Gardens,
Worthing, West Sussex.
August 4.

Lord Simon has nothing to declare

From Lord Simon of Highbury,
Minister for Trade and
Competitiveness in Europe

Sir, With reference to the leader in your newspaper today entitled "Above suspicion", and your front-page report yesterday "Lords to face Nolan review of standards", you may, for the avoidance of what would appear to be continuing doubt, find helpful a clear statement of my own position in relation to the declaration of my interests in the Lords' register.

Firstly, your leader implies an oversight in the declaration of my directorships. In fact, I resigned all my directorships on appointment to ministerial office. I therefore had no directorships to declare.

Secondly, I have no consultancies nor do I intend to have for the duration of my ministerial appointment. Again, there was nothing to declare.

Thirdly, with regard to my shareholdings, you will know that the requirement to declare shareholdings in the Lords' register is discretionary. My former BP shareholdings were already a matter of public record detailed in the BP annual accounts. My shareholdings in BP have now been sold. My non-BP shareholdings were being dealt with via a blind trust, in accordance with the then *Questions of Procedure for Ministers*.

I must stress that the arrangements put in place since my appointment as Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe to avoid conflicts of interest in respect of my personal finances and private interests have reflected the advice of my Permanent Secretary and have at all times been fully in accordance with the requirements of *Questions of Procedure for Ministers*.

I hope that this sets the record straight.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SIMON,
Department of Trade and Industry,
1 Victoria Street, SW1.
August 13.

Class and the Army

From Mr J. K. Morland

Sir, Out of the list which you publish today of 243 Army officers newly commissioned from the RMA Sandhurst no more than 100 come from public schools (I include all borderline cases). All the others come from state or grammar schools.

So much for the controversy in your correspondence columns (August 7 and 11) on the subject of snobbery in the Armed Forces.

Yours faithfully,
J. K. MORLAND,
New House,
Capel Lye, Moorhurst Lane,
South Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey.
August 12.

From Mr Peter Scott

Sir, Major Eric Joyce (reports, August 4 and 8) would appear to have had the last laugh over his superiors. Your account today of last week's Sovereign's Parade at RMA Sandhurst shows that of the 45 officers commissioned into the Brigade of Guards and the Cavalry 44 were educated at the major public schools (12 of them at Eton or Harrow), whilst of the 62 entering infantry regiments 48 were schooled in the independent sector.

This is however entirely academic. Anyone who has served in the Army will know that, regardless of the officers' educational background, it is the warrant officers and sergeants who run the show.

Yours sergeant-majority,
PETER SCOTT,
The Broom, West Woodburn,
Hexham, Northumberland.
bit-uk@msn.com
August 12.

The music of Strouse

From Mr Barry Fantoni

Sir, In his review of *A Lot of Living!* (Arts, August 8) James Christopher tells us that the songs are from "a swath of obscure Broadway musicals". They are not.

Bye Bye Birdie was a massive hit and was made into a film. *Dance A Little Closer* was a massive flop and made front-page news for being one of the few Broadway shows in recent times to run only one night.

Mr Christopher also failed to say that all the music, as well as the odd lyric, was written by Charles Strouse, whose most acclaimed success is *Annie*. The show is actually billed as "Charles Strouse's *A Lot of Living!*"

Yours faithfully,
BARRY FANTONI,
3 Francina Road, SW4.
August 8.

Figuring it out

From Mrs B. M. Speelman

Sir, I am curious to know whether the falling unemployment figures, which Labour in Opposition repeatedly claimed were manipulated and spurious, are now genuine.

Yours faithfully,
MIRIAM SPEELMAN,
2 Chobley Gardens,
M11 Lane, Hampstead, NW6.
August 13.

h₂

